

Hafa Adai!

Apatang awaiting heavy equipment. **PAGE 3**
DLNR, BECO support fees for Grotto. **PAGE 5**

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75¢

Sanctuary designation pushed

WASHINGTON—The Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy project applauds the leadership of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), whose actions resulted in the transfer of control of submerged lands from the U.S. to the Commonwealth on Dec. 21, 2016. This transfer was a result of discussions that go back almost a decade, when the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush promised control of submerged lands around the Northern Mariana Islands at the time of the designation of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument in 2008.



An anemone living on parapagurid hermit crab. Image courtesy of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, 2016 Deepwater Exploration of the Marianas.

“Returning the ownership of the submerged lands to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands is a great victory both today and for future generations,” Torres. “After many years of disagreement and hard work between the NMI and the federal government over this issue, the transfer of ownership back to the NMI will ensure that an integral part of our cultural heritage will always be available to support our dedication to protect our unique natural resources.”

“I look forward,” the governor added, “to continuing this working relationship with our federal counterparts.”
See SANCTUARY on Page 4



NEW PASSPORTS

Mel Santos, seated, a staff of Philippine honorary consul to Saipan Glicerio “Eli” Arago, and volunteer Lucy Buensalido help hand out new Philippine passports to Filipino citizens living in the Northern Marianas during a three-day distribution at the JP Center in Garapan.

MARK RABAGO

See story
on Page 6

Moody's raise concerns on IPI project

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A ranking official of Moody's Investors Services said last week that the international credit agency's growing concerns that Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. will complete its multi-million dollar integrated resort is why they downgraded the Hong Kong-based company's rating.

IPI owns and operates Best Sunshine Live, a temporary casino facility inside T Galleria, while the hotel-casino Imperial Pacific Resort is being built. Imperial Pacific Resort is the lone casino licensee on Saipan.

“The review for downgrade reflects our concerns over [IPI's] lack of funding to complete its [Imperial Pacific] project,” he said.
See MOODY'S on Page 4

Yamamoto: Bar more parties from *Luta* claims

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto has asked the federal court to enter a default judgment against any parties who have not intervened in his lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owner and operators of cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto, through counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, said the notice requirements have been met and the time for filing a claim has expired.

That means the district court should enter a default judgment against any parties who have not intervened in the case, he said.

See LUTA on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The moonlight, beachfront, chilly air, and Katchafire made for a perfect night.

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BUSINESS

Guam Sports Events Inc. has named the local event ambassadors of this year's UGM.

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LIFE & STYLE

After 146 years, the curtain is coming down on “The Greatest Show on Earth.”

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Local

ERWIN ENCINARES

Resident Katchafire percussionist Leon Davey hypes up the crowd attending their concert last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan beachfront.

Katchafire returns to Saipan after 10 years

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The moonlight, beachfront, chilly air, and Katchafire made for a perfect Saturday night as the reggae band performed on Saipan 10 years after their last visit to the island.

The 8-piece band, led by lead singer and guitarist Logan Bell, was last on Saipan in early 2007. The band features multiple percussion sets, horn sets, and the standard lead guitar, rhythm guitar, bass guitar and keyboards for live performances.

This year, Katchafire held a concert last Jan. 14 that was attended by about a hundred attendees.

"It's taken us 10 years to get back here, but [Saipan] has always been one of those places that we've always wanted to return to. We don't always get the opportunity [to come to Saipan] so every time we do we are blessed," said Bell.

Katchafire hails from Hamilton, New Zealand. Formed in 2000 as a Bob Marley tribute band, Katchafire released the highest selling New Zealand single for 2002, *Giddy Up*, in their first album, *Revival*.

Bell's favorite part of the concert was the beach venue.

"Just turning up at this venue [was my favorite part of the concert]. We had a pretty early flight this morning, so we didn't see the venue and we didn't do a sound check; we let our sound guy set up without us. It was exciting for us to come here and be right on the beach. We really like this amazing venue; we like turning up and having a

surprise on Saipan waiting for us," said Bell.

Bell said the genre associated with Katchafire is unclear even to him. Bell does recognize however, the elements of root reggae that is present in the bands' songs.

"People have kind of [categorized] us as a boy-band as well, maybe because we are all guys, but I think we are just roots music. We have reggae, but with a twist; we have a bit of pop and commercial appeal. I don't really know how to [categorize] ourselves as a band," said Bell, chuckling.

Katchafire's front man said the band writes their songs collectively, but for songs that Bell has written on his own, inspiration is taken from everything.

"I draw inspiration from everywhere, tonight's crowd, my kids, the beautiful scenery I woke up to this morning, basically it comes from everywhere—you got to take it where you can get it," said Bell.

Concertgoer Ged Mariur and her friend said, "The concert was awesome."

"My only disappointment was a song they failed to play. It's titled *Feels Like*, but it's okay," the friend said, refusing to be named.

Mariur and her friend confirmed that they would definitely be attending if there is another Katchafire concert.

Katchafire dropped by Trench Fest 2017 in Guam before performing here on Saipan. The band is going to be performing in Arizona on March 17 later this year.

Man in rape case is seeking testimony of expert witness

A 43-year-old man who is facing charges of raping a 12-year-old girl is requesting the Superior Court to give him funds so his expert witness from Oregon can come to Saipan and testify.

Otherwise, Joseph Seman Epina is asking the court to allow his expert witness, Dr. Wendy Bourg, to testify via Skype or any other video conferencing technology.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will hear the matter on Wednesday at 9am.

According to Epina's lawyer, assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, the Office of the

Public Defender does not have funds of its own to secure the presence of expert witnesses, so if the court requires Bourg to be physically present, money will need to be secured for her flight and lodging while on Saipan.

Epina's trial will commence on Jan. 23, 2017.

Nesbit said she only recently spoke with Bourg and determined that her testimony will be necessary at trial.

Nesbit said testimony by Skype would save a tremendous amount of resources and would not prejudice Epina's

See MAN on Page 4

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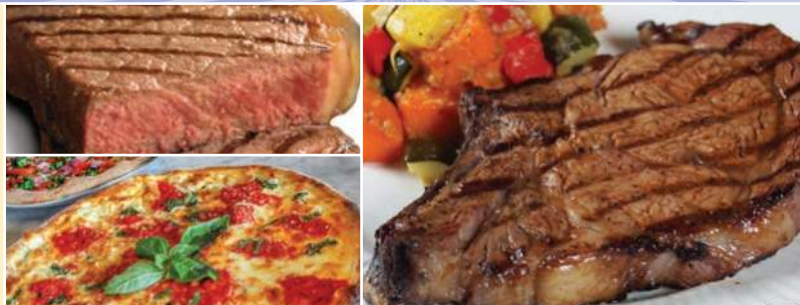
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Apatang awaiting heavy equipment

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said his office is still awaiting the arrival of heavy equipment that would make it easier for his staff to maintain and even improve secondary roads on the island.

"My goal is to really focus on secondary road paving and the [Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative] Delegation allocated a lot of money to pave these secondary roads," he said.

Apatang said he needs to sit down with Public Works Secretary James Ada to discuss the budget the 19th Legislature allocated to the Saipan Mayor's Office for secondary road pavement projects.

One type of heavy equipment his office needs, according to Apatang, is a grader.

"Next priority is to ask the Legislature for funding for a small grader. There is only one grader on island and we have to share it with Public Works. [We] need it to repair secondary roads. We also need a small compactor."

Apatang said they are also waiting for the arrival of a heavy-duty pickup truck

that would be used to haul heavy loads like a backhoe. He said an order has already been routed to Joeten Motors for a Ford pickup truck that costs around \$60,000.

He also disclosed that the boom truck they acquired for free from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. cannot be used for its original purpose and they are planning to convert it into a water tanker.

Just like the pickup truck, the mid-size boom truck was bought from Joeten Motors at a cost of \$700,000.

"We just need something to be used around the community for requests to cut tree branches," said Apatang.

He said the arrival of the new heavy equipment they ordered would allow them to serve the community of Saipan better.

"We don't have many people out there but we try to accommodate all the requests that come, whether it be PSS (Public School System), other government agencies, and the college. If they ask



Apatang

for our assistance we come and try to help them."

While it's been a year and a half since the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor, Apatang's office is still getting calls to pick up debris from the typhoon. He also said junk cars continue to be a concern. "Soudelor is done but there are still some people that have debris left, but we still pick them up. We're still going around and doing that. No hassle in that."

"We're also starting to pick up junk cars again. We're starting from San Antonio, Dandan, Chalan Kanoa, and going north," said Apatang, adding that his office is reviewing requests from 2014 and 2015. "[The Commonwealth] Zoning [Board] tags them and we pick them up."

"We have partnership with ERICCO Enterprises. As long as they're clean and there's no trash inside and fuel is empty, they'll take them. Those are rat nests, mosquitos breed on them, and definitely eyes sores." (Mark Rabago)

'Assess need for incinerator on Rota'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal judge has tasked three agencies to go to Rota and assess the need to install a separate incinerator for the island's waste.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter tasked representatives of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Engineering and Environmental Management Company to do the assessment.

Carter designated CUC power generation manager Max Simian, EPA project manager Russell Mechem, and Engineering and Environmental Management Company consultant Jeff Hess for

this job.

According to the minutes of the status conference last week, CUC, EPA, and EEMC have agreed that Carter will have a report about this on hand before he arrives on Saipan next month.

Carter have raised concerns about a separate incinerator for Rota.

EEMC project lead principal Daryl Greenway had proposed sending a party to Rota to review the current conditions on the island as he had no definitive answers as to the best type of incinerator for Rota.

EEMC consultant Hess apprised the court regarding the different types of wastes on Saipan, evaluation process, and the design phase of the incinerator.

CUC legal counsel James Sirok informed the court that on Saipan there is zero hazardous waste as prior hazardous waste is shipped off as a result of restoration efforts from Typhoon Soudelor that devastated the island in 2015.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien disclosed that an incinerator is among the three principal projects that have been identified for Department of the Interior funding next year.

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George Camacho is CJPA's new chief

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

George N. Camacho will be taking over as the new head of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency effective tomorrow, Tuesday. The former lawmaker was a legislative assistant at the CNMI Legislature's Legislative Bureau before being elected a member of the

House of Representatives for seven years.

"The CJPA has been without a director for a couple of months. I will be the next director after receiving my formal appointment last Friday. [Monday] is a holiday, so I'll formally start Tuesday," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview.

He said there wouldn't be

any adjustment period since he knows most of the staff at CJPA, after being a member of the Youth Advisory Council/State Advisory Group representing the CNMI Legislature.

"We're just going to look at everything first at [CJPA] like their budget so we could run the agency with efficiency. I know most of the staff, so it would not be something new

for me," added Camacho, who finished his associate degree at the Northern Marianas College before completing his bachelor's degree in Political Science at Washington State University.

"My job will be almost similar like when I was a member of the House, where we make laws and draft new policies. We're just going to make sure we implement the policies of CJPA to serve the people of the CNMI to the fullest extent possible."

He said that one of his main priorities once he finally settles into his new position is to review CJPA's grants programs. "We must treat everything with an open mind and analyze before making any changes. We need to make sure that we don't lose any of the grants for the CNMI."

He also thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for appointing him to lead CJPA, which secures federal funds in providing programs like for criminal justice needs and other social services.

"I thank the governor for

the trust that he had given me and I promise to do my best to serve the people of the CNMI. CJPA just acts as the clearinghouse for federal grants and we're going to make sure all funds will be distributed to all our programs to different agencies and departments," said Camacho.

Camacho, who is also an official of the Natibu Sports Association, said he would also con-

tinue to volunteer as a coach/manager in the Saipan Little League program. "We can never forget the kids and it is almost Little League season again."

He was unsuccessful in seeking a fourth term in the two seats at Precinct 4, finishing third in a five-way race. He garnered 529 votes against the 753 of Rep. Vinnie Sablan and neophyte lawmaker Alice Igitol's 610.

MOODY'S

From Page 1

Resort] project due to a delay in the issuance of the company's proposed bonds," said Moody's vice president and senior credit officer Kaven Tsang in a statement.

"The downgrade of [IPI's corporate family rating] reflects the increased uncertainty over the company's ability to secure sufficient funding to complete its project, in view of the delay in the opening of the casino to March 2017."

He added that shareholders have been providing temporary loans to fund the project. "The investment will be funded mainly by proposed bonds. While the bonds have not been issued, the major shareholders have been providing interim shareholder loans to keep construction going."

"A successful issuance of the proposed bonds will satisfy only part of Imperial Pacific's funding needs to complete the entire Grand Mariana project," added Tsang, who is also Moody's lead analyst for IPI.

Tsang, according to the Moody's report, said the "delay in issuing bonds could result in cost overruns and impact the construction schedule, delaying the opening of the casino. These could jeopardize their gaming license. This situation could also result in additional debt, increasing their debt leverage beyond expectations."

IPI had already been promoting Saipan—a U.S. commonwealth—as a tourist destination with their gaming facility among the attractions and activities to do in one of

the tropical island paradise in the Western Pacific. Chinese nationals can enter Saipan visa-free under a visa waiver program.

IPI, early this month, filed an announcement with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange that the original schedule of its casino having a soft opening by the Chinese New Year—Jan. 28—would not push through but it is still on track to begin operations in the first quarter of 2017.

Moody's downgrade came a day after another international credit rating agency, Fitch Ratings, lowered IPI's credit rating. Fitch also raised concerns last week that IPI has not yet secured long-term funds for the construction of its Imperial Pacific Resort on Saipan, according to separate reports by Asian Gaming Brief and Global Gaming Expo Asia.

Moody's, Fitch, and Standard & Poor are considered the Big Three of the credit rating agencies that are nationally recognized statistical organizations chosen by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. The three agencies provide rating systems to guide investors on the risks in putting up money in a particular company or market.

Moody's, on its website, issued a B2 rating that is five levels below investment grade. They gave IPI a provisional rating in September last year based on concerns of "risk arising from possible money laundering [activities]" inside the temporary casino facility, which have been denied strongly by IPI and supported by CNMI regulatory agencies that they are complying with all federal laws.



FIRST CLEANUP

A volunteer of PDM Promoters Inc. participates in the group's first cleanup of 2016 at the Paseo de Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LUTA

From Page 1

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood approved the sale of M/V *Luta* in the minimum bid of \$550,000, citing the excessive cost of keeping it and the delay in

securing its release.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the U.S. Marshal to sell the ship on Feb. 8, 2017.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

The U.S. Marshal Service later seized M/V *Luta*

and appointed the National Maritime Services Inc. as its custodian.

The ship's former captain, Michael Brochon, and six crewmembers, Norton Lilly International Inc., and Long Consulting then intervened in Yamamoto's lawsuit to collect payments for alleged unpaid wages and other services.

In Yamamoto's motion for

default on Thursday, Hasselback asserted that anyone claiming a right of possession or ownership interest in M/V *Luta* were required to file statements of right/interest within 10 days after the arrest of the vessel.

Hasselback said three groups have so far intervened, each claiming an interest in the ship.

SANCTUARY

From Page 1

terparts as we move forward on managing our submerged lands."

Public Law 113-34, which authorized the transfer, was drafted by Sablan and signed by President Barack Obama on Sept. 17, 2013. Shortly after the law was signed, Obama transferred control of the submerged lands around nine of the 14 islands but withheld transfer around the remaining islands to allow time to draft agreements that would ensure that the transfer did not negatively affect the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. A management agreement for three of these islands—Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas), Maug, and Asuncion—was finalized in September 2016 and signed by U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Torres last month.

The decision provides the Commonwealth government with legal authority over the seabed, subsoil, water column, and surface water resources in three geographical miles sea-

ward from the mean high tide of the three islands.

"This gives power to our local leaders, who are responsible for handling the islands' natural resources, and provides them more influence in how those resources can be conserved," said Angelo O'Connor Villagomez, officer for the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy project. "Engagement and leadership by the communities of the Northern Mariana Islands have a long and successful history of ensuring that protection measures are in harmony with our local culture, heritage, and values."

"In fact," he added, "we were one of the first places in the world to guarantee a safe, clean environment to our people in our constitution."

In addition to the submerged lands deal, Torres and Sablan wrote to Obama in September 2016 requesting that the government start the sanctuaries process for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument through the Sanctuaries Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Becoming a national marine sanctuary would provide the

monument with a more robust conservation and management profile as well as bring more resources for education and community engagement in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Commonwealth Legislature has written to the president in support of the governor and the delegate's request, as has nearly every other elected official in the Commonwealth.

Building on this broad support, the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy project has been working with local stakeholders to provide scientific information about the unique biological, cultural, and historic values of the Marianas Trench waters, highlighting the benefits a Marianas Trench National Sanctuary would bring.

"Strong leadership from the peoples of the Northern Mariana Islands has guided the conservation of this ecologically, economically and culturally unique marine ecosystem," said Damian Jensen, from the Bertarelli Foundation. "The Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy project will continue to support the local leaders of the Northern Mariana Islands as they push for the monument to become a

marine national sanctuary.

Additionally, eight years after its creation, the monument was recently named as one of only nine U.S. sites on the shortlist for consideration as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

"The pending UNESCO nomination as a World Heritage site is evidence enough to the outside world of something that we in the Northern Mariana Islands already knew: This is a rich and special ocean," said Villagomez. "Our leaders are continuing to lead the way to safeguard and conserve our treasures long into the future."

The Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy project is committed to collaborating with island residents, community leaders, government officials, scientists, and others to safeguard the world's oceans and the life within them. Over the past 10 years, Pew has worked with stakeholders and partners worldwide to support the creation of nine major marine reserves that will protect 2.4 million square miles (6.3 million square kilometers) of ocean. (*Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Project*)

MAN

From Page 2

right to confrontation because Bourg is expected to testify on his behalf.

Nesbit said Epina is indigent and cannot afford to secure the doctor's presence in court.

Further, the defense lawyer pointed out, failure to either provide funding for Bourg's flight and accommodations or, alternatively, to allow her testimony via video conferencing, would prejudice Epina's due process right.

Nesbit said denial of funding

for in-person testimony or testimony by Skype or other video conferencing would also adversely affect Epina's right to present witnesses and his right to compulsory process.

Police claimed that Epina sexually assaulted the girl who was sleeping at a relative's house last March. Police investigation started after receiving a complaint from a Division of Youth Services personnel about a student who was sexually assaulted.

The girl told police that it was not the first time that Epina sexually assaulted her. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

DLNR, BECQ support fees for Grotto

Two government agencies support the idea of imposing fees on those who visit the Grotto, both as a means of controlling the number of people who go there and to protect the popular dive site.

Both the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality have come forward to back the idea of imposing fees on Grotto visitors.

DLNR Secretary Richard Seman and BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman agree that controlling the number of people who visit the Grotto

can benefit the site in terms of sanitation and maintenance.

Talks of a fee being charged tourists and other non-local visitors is being discussed among various government agencies such as the Marianas Visitors Authority, BECQ, DLNR, and the Department of Public Lands.

Seman believes the fee could be used to maintain the Grotto.

"We need to find ways to provide us the finance to help maintain the facility. Right now, we have to scrounge up [money] and yet all these tourists are impacting the Grotto.

If we start assessing fees, only the real, serious tourists will be going there [to visit]," said Seman.

Rabauliman backs the idea of controlling the number of visitors to the site.

"I support placing some sort of control on the number of visitors that go to the Grotto, primarily for the health and safety of the visitors," said Rabauliman.

"It is a precarious trek down those flight of stairs, and the risk of injury is compounded when traffic is congested with SCUBA equipment in tow," he added.

Seman said that DLNR has already been planning to develop something to control the amount of visitors to the site.

"[DLNR needs to clarify] whether the deed of that land as a conservation area does not violate the Constitution. PL 12-41, the law that set up that area as a conservation area, provides [DLNR] the authority to charge fees to maintain the facility," said Seman.

Seman said DLNR has to obtain a legal finding based on whether the fees collected for the Grotto would go to DLNR.

"We just want to make sure that when we do assess a fee,

that the fee goes to us for the maintenance of the facility, instead of going to [somebody else]," said Seman.

The fee could help the Grotto but it is also a double-edged sword.

"What if somebody slips? What if somebody falls? The difference between assessing a fee to visit the Grotto and keeping the Grotto free is that the liability kicks in," Seman said.

"We can ask for a dollar just to go down, \$3 additional for jumping into the water and another \$5 for scuba diving. There are different ways to look at it based on the impact [of visitors]. We've got to protect that place and

sometimes there are just too many people," he added.

"What appears to be okay, over time, could cause severe damage," said Seman.

In an earlier interview, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said that having controlled visits at the Grotto arose after BECQ found increasing amounts of contaminants at the site.

"We all agreed that something must be done to prevent or limit the damage as much as possible," he said. "I think we all can agree that the Grotto is precious and peculiar and must be shielded and safeguarded for future generations to enjoy." *(Erwin Encinares)*



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 15-012

POSITION TITLE: Instructor, Hospitality/Tourism
Department: Business
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$41,527.83 – \$42,981.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/11/2017
Closing Date: 1/21/2017 or Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-001

POSITION TITLE: Program Coordinator I (Institutional Marketing)
Department: External Relations Office
Pay Level & Step: 20/01 – 20/02
Annual Salary: \$24,330.79 – \$25,182.37
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/12/2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-012

POSITION TITLE: Director, Library Programs & Services
Department: Library Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step: 33/01-35/02
Annual Salary: \$45,314.54 – \$51,609.41
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 11/09/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-031

POSITION TITLE: Clinical Instructor, Nursing
Department: Nursing
Pay Level & Step: 30/01 – 31/02
Annual Salary: \$38,394.81 – \$39,738.63
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 11/09/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-034

POSITION TITLE: Program Manager I (UCEDD)
Department: Administration and Resource Development
Pay Level & Step: 28/01 – 28/02
Annual Salary: \$35,674.68 – \$36,923.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/11/17
Closing Date: 1/21/17 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-041

POSITION TITLE: Coordinator, Distance Learning Education
Department: Academic Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 12/09/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-042

POSITION TITLE: Department Chair II
Department: Sciences, Math, Health, and Athletics
Pay Level & Step: 34/01 – 34/02
Annual Salary: \$49,356.09 – \$51,083.56
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 12/9/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-047

POSITION TITLE: Counselor (Early Intervention)
Department: Counseling Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step: 29/01 – 29/02
Annual Salary: \$40,567.11 – \$41,986.96
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 12/20/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-001

POSITION TITLE: Coordinator, Prior Learning
Department: Academic Programs and Services
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/03/2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-002

POSITION TITLE: Instructor, Science
Department: Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$41,527.83 – \$42,981.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/3/2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-003

POSITION TITLE: Chief Financial Officer
Department: Office of the President
Pay Level & Step: Ungraded Annual Salary: \$50,000.00 – \$60,000.00 (Depending on Qualification)
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/10/2017
Closing Date: 1/20/2017 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-004

POSITION TITLE: Personnel Specialist III
Department: Human Resource Office
Pay Level & Step: 32/01-32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/11/2017
Closing Date: 1/21/2017 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

458 get new Philippine passports

The office of Philippine honorary consul to Saipan Glicerio “Eli” Arago was able to release 458 new passports to Filipino citizens living in the Northern Marianas during a three-day distribution at the JP Center in Garapan.

Annamae Adaza, who helps out with the distribution, said their busiest day was last Wednesday, Jan. 11, with 161 passports released, followed by Thursday, Jan. 12 (140), Friday, Jan. 13, (83), and then Saturday, Jan. 14 (74).

Adaza said no serious problems were encountered during their distribution.

“Everything went smoothly. There were no complaints. Many were very happy with their new passports. A few were disappointed because their passports were not here yet,” she said.

Eva Osian, who hails from Pangasinan in the Philippines, said she’s very pleased with the new passports because they’re much improved compared to the previous ones.

Mel Santos, a staff of Arago’s office, said the delay in the arrival of others passports was due to problems with the capturing of the photos of those who renewed their passports.

Compared to previous distribution events, Santos said that more new passports were distributed because the honorary consul’s office now has two image capturing machines.

Adaza and Santos reminded Filipino citizens who have yet to claim their new passports to get them at Arago’s temporary



MARK RABAGO

The office of Philippine honorary consul to Saipan Glicerio “Eli” Arago staff and volunteers were able to distribute 458 new passports last week at the JP Center in Garapan.

office at the TSL Plaza.

Eight new passports remain unclaimed and these belong to: Melchor S. Cano; Jessie S. Basares; Lilibeth E. Jisman; Kriszell C. Moralejo; Jane P. McCale; Manuel P. Pastoral; and Ricardo L. Talibong Jr.

The new passports will be valid for five years instead of 10. The possibility of its extension was a suggestion by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

Those who missed out on the four-day distribution can

still pick up their passports at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

OWWA available

In related news, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Arago’s office, will conduct a mobile consular and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration membership application from Jan. 22 to 26, 9am-6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center in Susupe.

Those who wish to renew their passport, submit your

application at TSL Plaza 3rd floor Legal Office, Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM (12pm-1pm break time).

OWWA requirements are the following:

- Application form
- Copy of CW1 or green card
- Copy of passport
- \$25 fee (cash only)

For any inquiry about passport renewals, call Santos 233-6293 and for OWWA inquiry call Adaza at 483-5237. *(Mark Rabago)*

Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island February 6-8, 2017.

For more information, referrals and/or appointments, please contact your physician or
Marianas Medical Center at (670) 234-3926/27/28

Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros cardiologist and Medical Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam office bringing cardiovascular care excellence to the CNMI.

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FARE CONDITIONS: Selling Period: Until January 31, 2017. Travel Period: January 1 - March 15, 2017 and July 1 - December 10, 2017. Subject to seat availability. Fare is subject to change due to currency conversion rate. Fare is not guaranteed until final purchase. All-in economy roundtrip fare is quoted per person. Fare includes taxes and fees, exclusive of Philippine travel tax of PHP1,620 and ticketing service charge. Taxes are approximate. Breakdown of taxes and fees can be viewed at philippineairlines.com. Fare is valid for a minimum stay of 2 days and a maximum stay of 21 days. Refund fee is USD150 for totally unused ticket. Fare is non-refundable for partially used ticket. Change fee is USD75 per transaction. No-show fee is USD75. Infant fare for infant without a seat under 2 years is 10% of adult fare. Child's fare is 75% of adult fare. 100% Mabuhay Miles credit. Quoted fare is rounded off to the nearest whole number. Other travel conditions apply. **BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE:** Fare is inclusive of 7-kg hand carry baggage. Free check-in baggage allowance is 2 pieces at 50 lbs (23 kgs) per piece. There may be additional fees for your checked baggage in excess of your free baggage allowance.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-17-010

SAIPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe Village. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 260 LF of existing 10-inch ACP, ± 2200 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, and ± 250 LF of existing 6-inch ACP, existing sewer manhole rehabilitation, installation of new concrete sewer manhole, 4-inch and 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-010, Saipan Sewer Line Replacement Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 02, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Camera catches shoplifter in the act

An unidentified man was caught by a surveillance camera stealing a G-Shock watch at iShop at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan on Saturday night.

iShop is appealing to the public to call the police or the store for information about the identity of the suspect.

iShop also alerted the public to anyone selling the stolen item. It was worth \$109,

Saipan Tribune learned.

The footage showed a man, possibly in his mid 20's, wearing a blue T-shirt, a pair of black short pants, and a black baseball cap with sunglasses. He was also wearing a black-red strap bag and slippers.

The suspect was seen going around the store. While the store's sales associate was arranging some clothes on a

table, the suspect went behind her, took the watch from the shelf and put in into his pants' right side front pocket.

When the suspect left the store, one of the employees noticed that the watch was missing. The store's manager then called the police.

iShop opened its Paseo branch last year. It's the first shoplifting case in that store. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Busy 2016 for Saipan Awaodori Team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Awaodori Team impresses the passengers of *Nippon Maru* and *MS Asuka 11* with performances when the two cruise ships docked at the Port of Saipan.

The Saipan Awaodori Team performed in seven major events in 2016 and is already looking forward to a memorable 2017, its 10th anniversary.

Sonia Siwa, who coordinates the team, said that 2016 started with performances during the Flame Tree Festival at the Civic Center in Susupe in April and Taste of Marianas at the American Memorial Park in May.

The group also took part in the Liberation Day Parade last July, joined by 70 members of the Koenji Awa-odori Association dancers and musicians from Tokyo, Japan.

From August to September 2016, the team was a familiar fixture during the Festival of Cultures at the Paseo de Marianas.

The group also took part in a Commonwealth Cancer Association anti-domestic violence event last October.

In December, the team performed during the Mochitsuki Festival that capped off the Christmas in the Marianas event of the Marianas Visitors Authority at the Paseo.

Last Dec. 31, team members impressed the crew and

passengers of *Nippon Maru* and *MS Asuka 11* with performances when the two cruise ships docked at the Port of Saipan.

On top of all of these, the team also performed all Saturdays of 2016 at Paseo de Marianas at 6pm, 7pm, and 8pm. They are expected to maintain the schedule in 2017.

Siwa said the Saipan Awaodori Team currently is composed of 48 dancers and 12 musicians (ohayashi).

The team members are instructed by three regular instructors—Misako Kamata, Sheena Kang Saures, and Zac Sakisat.

Kamata remains the primary instructor as she is always present in all practices for both dancers and musicians, while Saures was in Japan for almost two months during a study trip (July-August).

Sakisat leads the musicians while also playing the kane. He was in Japan for almost three months for a study trip as well and performed with the Tokyo Tensuiren or the Awaodori Festival celebration (June-August)

From time to time a member of an Awaodori dance

group from Japan also comes to check the progress of the members on Saipan.

Practices are held at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center and Kinpachi Building every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 5pm.

Last year also saw the team celebrate its 9th anniversary. For the occasion 70 members of the Koenji Awaodori Association in Japan—the biggest group to ever visit Saipan—came to Saipan last July 3 to celebrate and perform with the team at Fiesta Resort & Spa and at the Paseo de Marianas.

"This year is the 10-year anniversary of Saipan Awaodori Team and they have more bigger plans ahead," said Siwa.

Saipan Awaodori Team is coordinated by PDM Promoters, Inc., a CNMI non-profit corporation.

The Awa Odori dance, when literally translated to English, means "fools dance." Awa means fool, while odori means dance. The annual Koenji Awa Odori Festival is the second largest Awa Dance Festival in Japan, only second to Tokushima Prefecture's Obon Festival. *(Mark Rabago)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Amendment #1 NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2017

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,247,600.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$886,361.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$293,829.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$67,410.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2017.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 29, 2016.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhc.gov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 31, 2017, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 31, 2017, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

January 17, 2017, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
January 18, 2017, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota
January 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian

(Note: Previous announcement had January 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m. briefing for the island of Saipan, because it is a holiday (Martin Luther King) we moved the briefing to the following day.)

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatchag.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muma, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

MYPros features Pulitzer-winning photojournalist

Jan. 25 will be extra special for all young professionals in the CNMI.

It's the MYPros M3: Kick-Off Membership Meet with a cocktail party to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Aqua Resort Club poolside from 5pm to 9pm. This is a perfect opportunity for new members to join as the pur-

chase of a \$40 ticket will be automatically counted as an annual membership fee.

The guest speaker for the membership meet is the Pulitzer Prize photojournalist Nancy Borowick, whose photo series depicting her mother and father's battle against cancer is world-renowned. Borowick currently resides in Guam and

made her way to Saipan for the first time last year.

This is the first event of the year for the Marianas Young Professionals group, or MYPros, which was founded in 2015 and is an organic, independent organization that aims to provide young professionals with unique opportunities for professional development, entrepreneurial endeavors, networking, mentoring, and civic engagement. MYPros

is known to host networking, professional and must-go-to events throughout the year.

"Our group believes in up-scaling young professionals and businesses to better our community. We are excited for this kickoff and encourage not only young professionals but for our community," said MYPros vice president Nola Hix.

MYPros encourages employers to reward their young employees by purchasing tick-

ets to this event for them.

"We'd like to give your business this opportunity by assisting your young professionals to join us. Every business has potential young employees, who go above and beyond the criteria, who exceeds expectation you've set and more. Reward them by helping them improve skills through forums, get involved in the community, and network with other businesses

that can better your company. This is the best solution for your marketing team to invest in," said 2017 MYPros president Matthew Deleon Guerrero.

Tickets are \$40 each and includes the annual MyPros membership fee. Purchase tickets by emailing mypros.670@gmail.com or visit them on Facebook for more details at www.facebook.com/mypros670. (PR)

NMI students make honor roll

Amanda Maria W. Santos of the Northern Mariana Islands, a senior at the Oregon State University taking up Fisheries and Wildlife Science, made the university's scholastic honor roll fall term with a grade of 3.5 or better.

To be on the university's honor roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work.

A total of 1,234 students earned straight-As (4.0.) Another 4,343 earned a B-plus (3.5) or

better to make the listing.

Sky Kim of Saipan has also been named to the 2016 fall semester dean's list at Ohio Wesleyan University. To earn dean's list recognition, Ohio Wesleyan students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in all applicable classes.

Founded in 1842, Ohio Wesleyan University is one of the nation's premier liberal arts universities. Learn more at www.owu.edu. (PR)

Guam student makes OSU honor roll

CORVALLIS, Ore.—Benjamin R. Bloom, from Santa Rita, Guam, and a senior taking up Chemical Engineering at the Oregon State University, have made it to the university's honor roll for the fall term after garnering a general weighted average of 3.5 or better.

The Oregon State Uni-

versity recently released the names of students who have made the scholastic honor roll fall term. A total of 1,234 students earned straight-As (4.0.). Another 4,343 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the honor roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work. (PR)

Muggsy Bogues lecture reset to Tuesday

The University of Guam presidential lecture series featuring former National Basketball Association player Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues scheduled has been postponed due to a change in Bogues' travel schedule.

The lecture will now be

held tomorrow, Jan. 17 at 5:30pm in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences lecture hall.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. For more information, contact Jonas Macapinlac at jmac@triton.uog.edu. (UOG)



VFW CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Mount Carmel School's Jeff Melchor, far right, who took first place in the VFW essay contest, high school division, besting students from Saipan and Guam. Robin Alvarez, second from left, took second place in the middle school division. VFW commander Michael A. O'Kelley, second from right, presented the awards to the MCS students, along with Mount Carmel School vice principal Helene Manning, far left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOINT TRAINING

Matt Liston, a supervisor of a school resource officer unit from Wichita, Kansas, talks during the SRO training program attended by both representatives of the Public School System and the Department of Public Safety.

ERWIN ENCINARES



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

After-school program at Kagman center

The Family & Youth Enhancement Program-Youth Services Section of the Division of Youth Services offers an after-school program at the Kagman Community Center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Aside from homework/school project sessions, the program also provides for youth prevention activities that focus on literacy, art and music, career opportunities and cultural demonstrations. (PR)

Kagman schools PTSA meeting set

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday Jan. 19, 2017, at 5pm at the Kagman Elementary School

cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 for more information. (PR)

Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Jan. 18 from 8am to 8pm

■ Jan. 20 from 10am to 3pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump's plan to turn the family business over to his sons isn't going to cut it

If Americans learned anything from president-elect Donald Trump's press conference Wednesday, it was that the scope of his business enterprises makes it exceedingly difficult for him to separate his personal interests from those of the nation. Trump assured his listeners that they shouldn't worry about financial conflicts or ethical dilemmas because he was going to step aside and let his sons run the family's Trump Organization. But while that might mean he won't be making certain corporate decisions, it doesn't ensure that he won't craft policies as president designed to increase the worth of his holdings.

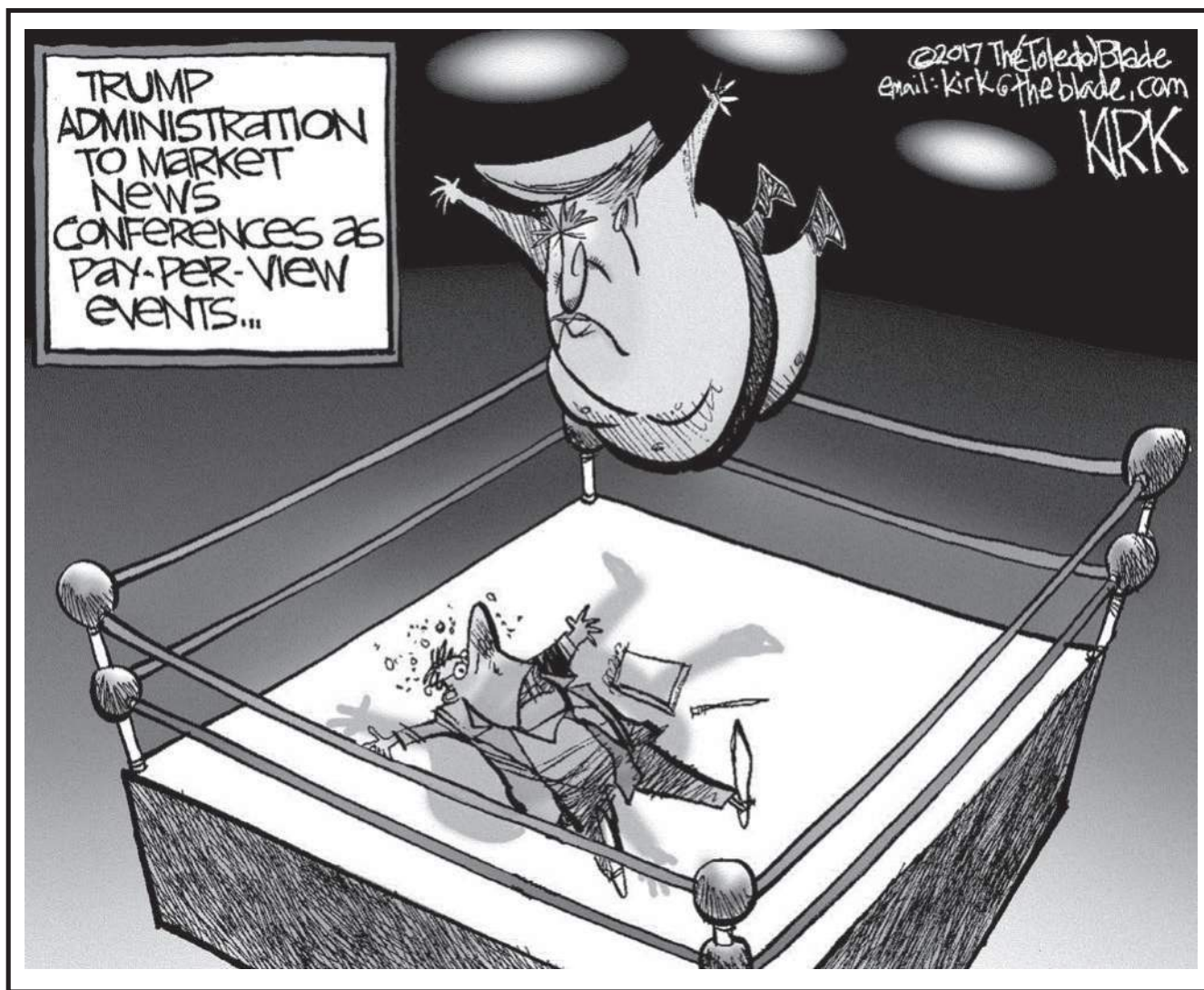
Trump made it clear he has no intention of selling off the business or placing it in a true blind trust because, well, it would be hard to do, it would cost him money and besides, federal conflict-of-interest laws don't require a president to divest, so he won't. That's a rather petulant position to take. Trump sought out the presidency amid serious questions by ethics experts over how he would assure the public that he has only one loyalty: to protect and advance the interests of the American people. Unfortunately, he did little to assuage those concerns during the campaign—and wouldn't even release his tax returns so that voters could understand the extent and nature of the problem.

Under the arrangement laid out by his tax attorney, Sheri Dillon, at Wednesday's press conference, the president-elect will sign over control of the business to a trust under the care of his two adult sons, Donald Jr. and Eric. In addition, the Trump Organization will undertake no new foreign deals, and any new domestic deals will be vetted by an in-house "ethics advisor." Those deals will occur without Trump's knowledge or input.

Yet Trump's conflicts of interest remain. He presumably will continue to receive income from the family business, and non-detailed financial statements of how it is faring. And not only does he already know exactly what the Trump Organization's current holdings are, both foreign and domestic, but all he needs to do to learn what new deals are in the works is read the newspaper. That means he'll be aware of how revisions to the tax codes, which he has promised, will affect the family's real estate and hotel businesses. And whether a change in policies toward the Philippines would affect his existing deals there with businessman Jose Antonio, who was recently appointed Philippine trade envoy to the U.S. To offer just two examples.

Federal policies, existing and future, have untold intersections with the Trump Organization. This is unprecedented territory for the White House, and the nation. But as long as the Trump family stands to gain privately from the public policy decisions of President Trump, the nation will be justifiably skeptical of where their president's loyalties lie.

(c)2017 Los Angeles Times



Obama's farewell address a campaign rally in disguise

Barack Obama formally ended his presidency the way he came in, talking to adoring fans about how lucky we are to have him in our lives.

Indeed, given the hand-wringing over how Obama's successor is all about entertainment and theatrics, it was somewhere between ironic and absurd to watch the outgoing president hold a campaign rally for his "farewell address."

And yet, we've become so inured to this kind of self-serving pomp and circumstance that no one seems to care. From what I can tell, no liberal commentators minded at all, and most conservative reviewers went straight to the substance—or lack thereof—of Obama's remarks.

I'll get to that. But it's worth pointing out the gaudy grotesquerie of the spectacle, because it highlights not only how low we have sunk, but the depths to which we may yet plunge given how Obama helped further transform the presidency into a totem in the culture wars.

The first presidential farewell address, and the standard for all to follow, was given by George Washington. It was "given," not delivered, in that it was written out and published as a letter to the American people in the American Daily Advertiser under the title "The Address of General Washington to the People of the United States on his declining the Presidency of the United States."

James Madison helped write the first draft toward the end of Washington's first term. When Washington decided to run for a second term, it was put aside. When he opted not to run for a third term, he gave it to Alexander Hamilton to revise.

With a bullpen of writers like that, it's no wonder that Washington's farewell ranks among the great works of literary statecraft, but the most remarkable thing about it was that it was given at all. To voluntarily relinquish power—power Washington never wanted in the first place—for the benefit of democracy was one of the most radical acts of political humility in history.

During the Revolutionary War, King George III asked the American painter Benjamin West what Washington would do if he won independence for the colonies. West replied, "They say he will return to his farm."

George was stunned: "If he does that," the king replied, "he will be the greatest man in the world."

Few presidents dared to invite comparisons to Washington until the populist egotist Andrew Jackson opted to write his own letter to the American people. It was the longest presidential farewell ever, coming in at more than 8,000 words.

Of course, the era of radio and television necessitated—or

By **JONAH GOLDBERG**
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.



created the perception of necessity—that presidents farewell address the people directly. Whether that amounted to progress is for others to decide. But until Obama, it never occurred to a president to deliver a televised address from anywhere but some dignified official venue (mostly the Oval Office, but sometimes the House chamber or even West Point).

Obama, who has said he'd love to run for a third term if he weren't barred from doing so (thanks to FDR flouting the Washingtonian tradition of serving only two terms, forcing Congress to amend the Constitution), went a different way. He did the next best thing and held a campaign rally as if he were running again. Obama is never more comfortable than when he's in front of an audience that already agrees with him and shares his stunning self-regard, which helps explain why his was the longest televised presidential farewell ever.

The whole speech seemed written to be the final chapter of the "Collected Speeches of Barack Obama," which is why he concluded by referencing his 2008 "Yes We Can" speech.

No wonder the substance of Obama's farewell was a high-flown rehash of his greatest hits. He spoke again of Congress being "dysfunctional" in the abstract, but what he surely meant is that Congress isn't working properly when it declines to do what he wants it to do. Hence the insinuation that disagreement with his views on climate change is contrary to the "spirit" of America and the Enlightenment. He called for a "new social compact" that was indistinguishable from his legislative agenda and insisted that the essence of democracy is the commitment "that we rise or fall as one."

That is not the spirit of democracy at all; it's the spirit of the "tribalism" and "nationalism" he's come to disparage. But that has always been the spirit of Obamaism. When people agree with him, that's democracy working. When democracy rejects his counsel, that's the bitter Bible-clingers rejecting the better angel of his nature.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Repealing Affordable Care Act

In the last seven years, national Republicans have yearned to repeal the Affordable Care Act, according to a Bloomberg editorial.

It rode on powerful political rhetoric to trash it but left naked when tasked to get it done. It seems, though, that it has found sure footing to do so.

President-elect Trump has sought fellow Republicans in Congress to repeal Obamacare immediately with remedies to follow over the next weeks. I figure it's payback time where the new president erases the Obama legacy.

Gone: Obama's farewell speech was staged for the "windy city" and a "good one by Chicago's violent standards—only one person was killed by gunfire and eight others were wounded," reports the *Washington Times*.

Some 762 Chicagoans were murdered up to last Christmas. It's an ugly chapter in the Obama-Emmanuel legacy. Some Chicagoans say it's shaping up as a "hollow valedictory speech." Not sure that it panned out that way.

I have to admire his "staggering capacity to evaluate trade-offs" and stood firm telling his staff to "stay focused" and try to understand the consequence of their actions for millions of folks across the prairie. The latter commitment has lifted the lives of millions nationwide.

Sometime he's too scholarly in his explanation of issues that we miss the boat. A lot of editorial writers and commentators admire his coherence in any of his deliberations. The only setback was he never brought his eloquence to the WH. Imagine if he did and adhered to his policies. A powerfully persuasive speaker so unique in U.S. presidential history!

Excitement: President-elect Trump has sidestepped the intelligence community and ignored the mainstream media as he tweets answers on issues. Not a conformist by any standard. It makes for an exciting term at the WH.

Trump has forced Ford to shutter its Mexico auto plant. He's elbowing General Motors to keep jobs at home. He's issued fair warning to Toyota that it would suffer heavy border taxes if it

keeps its auto manufacturing south of the border.

He's also set his eyes on midnight regulations issued recently by Obama. Why not! Why should this fiat by Mr. O be allowed when each regulation would cost some \$100 million to follow? Congress is also ready to retrieve policy review especially those that would drive manufacturing cost upwards. I say why not!

Boredom: Here at home, the dazed elected elite is struggling to understand what IPI's bond downgrade means. If you return to the story you could well come to terms with it. It places you right front and center for solutions if the project sputters to death because it can't secure financing.

It cuts recent euphoria about economic improvements here. We've elbowed Nippon and Korean investments while the new Trump administration is troublesome for trade and security in Asia. What if Trump just intensifies bad terms with China that kills any further investments here?

The assault against a fragile island economy would be hugely devastating; we probably need to prepare a *mea culpa* beggar's trip to Washington to recite "...hallowed be thy authorization, thy appropriation come..."

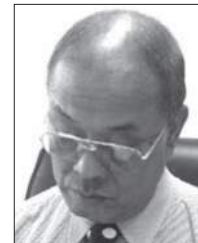
Excuse me! The usual dish of redundancy is still on the menu about healthcare. Why don't you visit the hospital and see if PJs have been bought, toiletries sufficiently provided each room on the floor, in-house medication on the ready, and other needs. Bring a sheet of paper and check them off when factually met by CHC.

If not, return to your respective chambers and repeal the new hefty salaries you've given yourselves at the close of 2016. This simple suggestion teaches what's known in management as "priorities" over "nice to have" stuff. The old salary is most sufficient for the lack of quality in your performance, *di ba?* Eh, get for da kine for real braddah! *Na` para i peskan do`du!*

Red flag: Whenever issues are raised in this column they are basically intended as red flags so you catch it with the conviction to do due diligence.

Regional stuff must be looked at from their implications. In

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

other words, what happens to Chinese investments here when the spat between Trump and Jinping escalates to a show of power?

Out the window goes this category of investment. Simultaneously, didn't we already elbow Nippon and Korean investments? With investments being crispy fragile, how would the NMI spur economic revival when it's forced to head further south? Did you miss this or "not yet, already?"

The troublesome foreign relations between global giants (U.S., China and Japan) in East Asia are uncertain and unpredictable under a Trump presidency. The shift in the geopolitical landscape in East Asia needs intervention of allied nations pitching the need for continued trade relations. It's the only path to keeping trade and security intact. It's an issue we can't ignore!

The casino building binge that includes Manila, Singapore, Vietnam, Macau and others may compromise our share of wealthy players. It could mean a heavy decline in revenue generation. What if it morphs into far less for far less on programs now funded by the casino law? Is there a fallback position or will it mean a perfect crash into the reef of bankruptcy? This is where "deliberative discussions" come into play—the careful consideration—of issues!

Policy stability isn't a forte of the NMI especially when dealing with investments. When the last door is shuttered how do we spur growth at home? Halo! EVERbody home?

Donald Trump is 'gaslighting' all of us

Is Donald Trump really a "big fan" of the intelligence community, as he claimed on Twitter, or did he disparage intelligence professionals when he repeatedly referred to them and their work in sneer quotes about "Intelligence" briefings and the "so-called 'Russian hacking'"?

Did Trump mock a disabled reporter, or did your eyes, and the Hollywood elite make you think he did?

Did he convince Ford not to move a car plant to Mexico, saving American jobs, or was it all a fabrication for publicity?

Did he win the election with a historically narrow victory, or did he score a "landslide"?

The questions are endless, and the answers, unless you're paying very close attention—all the time—can require significant effort to ascertain. Reality is becoming hazy in the era of Trump. And that's no accident.

The fact is Trump has become America's gaslighter in chief.

If you've never heard the term, prepare to learn it and live with it every day. Unless Trump starts behaving in a radically different way after he becomes President, gaslighting will become one of the words of 2017.

The term comes from the 1930s play "Gas Light" and the 1940s Hollywood movie version (Gaslight) in which a manipulative husband tries to unmoor his wife, played by Ingrid Bergman, by tampering with her perception of reality. He dims the gaslights and then pretends it's only she who thinks they are flickering as the rooms grow darker.

That's only the beginning. He uses a variety of truth-blurring techniques. His goal is to exert power and control by creating doubts about what is real and what isn't, distracting her as he attempts to steal precious jewels.

Mental health professionals have made much of the practice, said to be a favorite of narcissists and abusive spouses. But more recently the tactical tampering with the truth has become a preferred method of strongmen around the world. Gaslighting by other means was always a common feature of dictatorships, but it has found new vogue as a more subtle form of domestic political control even in countries with varying degrees of democracy.

Now Trump has brought it to the United States. The tech-

niques include saying and doing things and then denying it, blaming others for misunderstanding, disparaging their concerns as oversensitivity, claiming outrageous statements were jokes or misunderstandings, and other forms of twilighting the truth.

Recall the presidential campaign. By early summer, Trump had already accumulated a long list of statements he made and then denied making; enough that fact-checkers could hardly keep up. He told his supporters to "knock the crap out" of protesters at his rallies, adding "I will pay your legal fees." When confronted with the statement, he responded: "I didn't say that."

After mimicking a disabled reporter and seeing the video used as evidence against him, he repeatedly denied it, claiming his opponents should be embarrassed to say he did. "I would NEVER mock disabled. Shame!" The denials continued after Meryl Streep brought up the subject this week at the Golden Globes. With the video easily available, Trump's argument boiled down to "Who do you trust, me or your lying eyes?"

When Trump says something that outrages a portion of the population and pleases one segment, he can have it both ways. Voters eager for a tough guy president may be happy with the bully, while those who don't like it might be appeased by the denial. In the end, few people can keep up with all the facts all the time. And as he tries to undercut the credibility of serious journalists, he makes it even harder for everyone else to find an easy path to the truth.

Just before Friday's intelligence briefing on Russian hacks, Trump approvingly tweeted about Julian Assange's statements denying Russian involvement. When he was criticized for trusting the head of WikiLeaks more than U.S. intelligence professionals, he accused the "dishonest media" of claiming he agreed with Assange.

The fact is, many people hear only Trump's version of events, and polls show many people believe even the most obvious distortions of the truth.

He's just getting started, but compared with the man he admires so much, he's a rank amateur at gaslighting.

In Russia, the truth became a matter of opinion under a strategy implemented by a clever aide to President Vladimir Putin,

By FRIDA GHITIS
Miami Herald



Frida Ghitis is a world affairs columnist for The Miami Herald and World Politics Review, and a former CNN producer and correspondent. Readers may email her at fghitis@gmail.com.

Vladislav Surkov. Surkov, who has a background in the arts, orchestrated a kind of political theater in Russia, creating a gauzy façade where no one knew which group was a creation of the government and which wasn't.

He reportedly financed liberal groups and neo-Nazi skinheads. Russian politics became theater, and Putin gradually gained almost total control, with the independent media gradually disappearing as an alternative to journalists loyal to the government.

Russia's false reality then moved from the domestic arena to global theater. When "little green men" made their appearance in Ukraine's Crimea, Russia denied that there were Russian operatives in unmarked uniforms. And when pro-Russian militias emerged in Ukraine and elsewhere, Moscow claimed they emerged spontaneously in a quest for independence, even as Russian military forces moved into position in a sovereign country.






Russia even tried to gaslight U.S. voters, as intelligence agencies concluded, trying to undermine their faith in the democratic process. And when Moscow thought Trump would lose, it planned to promote the view that the election was stolen, under the #DemocracyRIP banner, a plan whose seeds Trump had already planted.

The challenge will be a steep one for journalists and for all Americans, when so much of what comes from the next president has to be checked and double-checked. The first step is to establish when there is a gaslighting operation in progress.

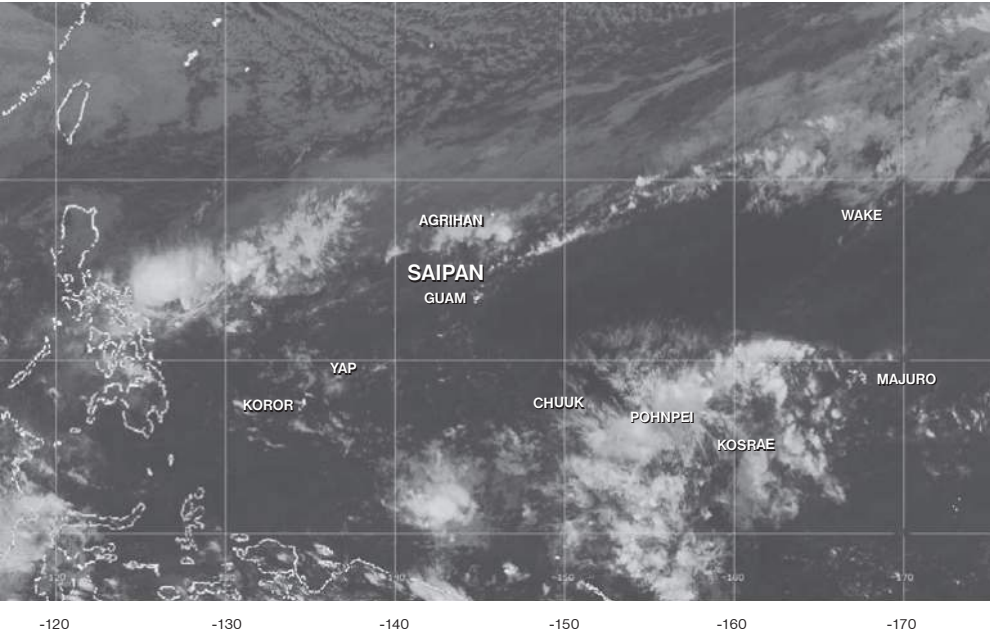
Then comes the battle to hold on to the facts.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light winds and 3-4 ft combined seas are present across the Marianas waters. Meanwhile, a cold front is situated north of Saipan near Pagan Island, sagging slowly southward. This is a true front, with north to northwest winds north of it, and south winds south of it, and convective outbreaks occurring along the front. A subtropical ridge at the surface extends westward right through the Marianas, with light south or southwest winds in the marine zones. Radar shows scattered showers northwest of the islands, and a few light showers southeast of Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	37° / 18°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 63°
Honolulu	Sunny	82° / 68°
London	Partly Cloudy	42° / 30°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 49°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	99° / 64°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79° / 69°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 38°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	46° / 34°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	39° / 27°
Pusan	Sunny	45° / 28°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	46° / 34°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	71° / 55°
San Francisco	Snow shower	34° / 16°
Seoul	Snow shower	39° / 23°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 32°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	35° / 33°



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:20 AM	LOW TIDE		-0.25
11:07 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.98
5:09 PM	LOW TIDE		0.92
9:58 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.72 H

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:33 AM	9:42 PM
Tuesday	-	10:16 AM	10:33 PM
Wednesday	-	10:56 AM	11:22 PM
Thursday	-	11:36 AM	-
Friday	12:10 AM	12:15 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	1, 2, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	1, 6, 7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, HK HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL			FREQUENCY		
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL			FREQUENCY		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE		
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			

Business

United Guam Marathon names event envoys

TUMON, Guam—Guam Sports Events Inc. has named the local event ambassadors of this year's United Airlines Guam Marathon.

"We are proud to announce that Manami Iijima, Rhea Macaluso, Derek Mandell and Leo Tkel have been named as our first local event ambassadors of the United Airlines Guam Marathon," said Ben Ferguson, managing director of GSE. "These dedicated and experienced runners have graciously been sharing some valuable running tips through the UGM monthly e-newsletter. These individuals are ideal representatives for our event because they are so giving of their time and each one has a keen interest in promoting running from both a competitive and wellness standpoint."

Carmela Tyquiengco, the spokesperson for the United Airlines Guam Marathon, is also looking forward to working with the event ambassadors.

"Manami, Rhea, Derek and Leo will bring the event to an even higher level," Tyquiengco said. "They are helping to make the event fun for runners of all levels."

Iijima, a Maite resident, shares how she is preparing for the half marathon on so-



cial media. She posts food and training pictures on Instagram as @manamiruns. People also can ask her for insights or tips on Facebook.

Macaluso, a Chalan Pago resident, is still deciding between the 10K and half marathon.

"I am a Paradise Fitness Center athlete, and we will be starting a running club to help our members train for this

event," Macaluso said. "Details for the running club will be posted on my social media account rhea.macaluso (Instagram) or @paradisefitness."

Mandell, a Chalan Pago resident, is deciding between the full marathon and half marathon. He is trying to find a day of the week to host group runs. People can email him for

quick running tips at derek@werunguam.com.

Tkel, who is preparing for the full marathon, welcomes runners to join him and his friends as they train. "We run every Sunday starting at 5am at the Pacific Islands Club parking lot," the

Barrigada resident said. "We'll be more than happy to

share some tips and guidance."

The United Airlines Guam Marathon, in its fifth year, is organized by Guam Sports

Events Inc., a nonprofit organization that hosts annual running and cycling events to promote Guam's *hafa adai* spirit to grow sports tourism in Guam. The United Airlines Guam Marathon, Guam's

UNITED AIRLINES GUAM MARATHON
The United Airlines Guam Marathon named Derek Mandell, Rhea Macaluso, Manami Iijima and Leo Tkel as this year's local event ambassadors. From left, Mandell, United Airlines Guam Marathon spokesperson Carmela Tyquiengco, Macaluso, Iijima, and Tkel. The marathon is set for April 9. For more information, go to unitedguammarathon.com.

first IAAF approved marathon race, will take place on Sunday, April 9, 2017. Considered Guam's premier running event, the UGM includes 5K, 10K, half marathon (13.1 miles) and marathon (26.2 miles) race distances. All courses have been officially certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations and Association of International Marathons and Distance Races. This designation means that marathon runners may use this as a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon. Complete event details and registration can be found on the official event website at unitedguammarathon.com. The UGM is also sponsored by the Guam Visitors Bureau and the Pacific Islands Club. **(PR)**

Retail group launches training for entry-level job seekers

NEW YORK (AP)—Trying to stem high turnover in store jobs, nonprofit groups and chains such as Wal-Mart, Home Depot and the Home Shopping Network are launching a program to help people develop the skills to land entry-level jobs and advance in a retail career.

As more people shop online, stores say they need workers who come in with more knowledge and can offer better service. The training and credential program, led by the nonprofit arm of the National Retail Federation trade group, includes sales and inventory basics, dealing with customers, how to use technology like kiosks and more.

"The skill gap is a huge challenge in America broadly," said Ellen Davis, a senior vice president at the trade group and executive director of the NRF Foundation. "Talent is a significant challenge in retail at all levels."

More than 20 major retailers including Neiman Marcus and Ashley Stewart have pledged general support for the Rise Up program being launched Sunday. It's part of

a broader credential plan that would help workers move up that may include training for store supervisors and in specific areas like retail analytics.

Thirty-two percent of all first jobs in the U.S. are in retail, the trade group says, and stores overall have more job openings now than they did a few years ago. Rising wages have increased competition for workers as people take better-paying jobs. The average hourly pay for cashiers and low-level retail sales staff is \$9.26, according to a recent Hay Group study - a level labor groups say still isn't enough to live on. The retail industry says store jobs can be a starting point toward bigger things.

In stores, entry-level work isn't just about folding clothes and ringing up sales. Beyond making change, the Rise Up program includes how to balance a cash drawer and checking for counterfeit currency. Employees also need to understand how stores and online sites work together, use up-to-date handhelds to check inventory, and solve customer-service issues.

Drone schools look to woo younger pilots for commercial jobs

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP)—Leaders in the unmanned aircraft industry are trying to persuade young people who think drones are cool to consider flying them for a living.

Commercial pilots must obtain a Federal Aviation Administration drone license, and some companies that employ such pilots have started selling classes that help students prepare for the FAA test or just figure out whether they would be interested in such a career.

"I think a lot of people my age are interested in drones because it's cool technology

that is really just starting to be available for everyone," said 17-year-old North Dakota high school student Ava Niemeier, who plans to attend new training being offered by a commercial drone company in her state. "There are a lot of kids at my school with smaller drones that they fly for fun."

Businesses use drones to take photos and video, for security and to conduct inspections or surveys, among other things. With the number of commercial drone operations outpacing the pool of certified drone pilots, experts say more training is needed

to help young flyers operate the planes legally and safely.

James Barnes founded the New Jersey Drone Academy on an old miniature golf and driving range complex nearly three years ago. His primary motivation, he says, is to give kids from urban areas who can't afford to go to college a chance to learn a trade and make decent money.

"We are just growing at an outrageous pace, but I hardly see anybody in the country moving in that direction," Barnes said. "I'm trying to hire two experienced drone

technicians at \$20 an hour and I can't find anybody." Participants in Barnes' courses have ranged in age from 8 to 104.

Niemeier plans to take a course through SkySkopes, a Grand Forks company that employs unmanned aircraft pilots and is offering an online class for students beginning as early as eighth grade as well as a separate flight certification course. She decided to take the class after her father - a commercial photographer with no aviation experience - was recruited by SkySkopes to test the 20-week flight training course.

BankPacific announces promotions, new hires

BankPacific announced Friday a slew of promotions and new hires.

Philip J. Flores, president and chairman of the BankPacific board, made the announcement.

Marvin Deleon Guerrero recently joined the BankPacific family as assistant vice president, Saipan branch manager. Deleon Guerrero received his MBA in Business Administration from Argosy University, Hawaii. He has over



Guerrero



Pimentel



Pinaula



Miranda

13 years of banking and real estate experience in loans, operations and is a certified BSA officer.

Aurora Pimentel recently joined the BankPacific family as assistant vice president, Hagatna branch man-

ager. Pimentel graduated from Academy of Our Lady of Guam and attended the University of Guam. She brings with her 20 years of banking experience in loans and operations.

Edward Pinaula has re-

cently been promoted to Saipan office supervisor. He brings 16 years of banking experience in collection and accounting.

Ernesto Miranda II was promoted to vice president, Information Technology assistant manager. He joined the BankPacific family in 2006. Miranda graduated from the University of Guam and received his bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems. **(PR)**

Nation

Trump unleashes Twitter attack vs civil rights legend

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump tore into civil rights legend John Lewis on Saturday for questioning the legitimacy of the Republican billionaire's White House victory, intensifying a feud with the black congressman days before the national holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

Trump tweeted that Lewis, D-Ga., "should spend more time on fixing and helping his district, which is in horrible shape and falling apart (not to mention crime infested) rather than falsely complaining about the election results."

The incoming president

added: "All talk, talk, talk - no action or results. Sad!"

Lewis, among the most revered leaders of the civil rights movement, suffered a skull fracture during the march in Selma, Alabama, more than a half-century ago and has devoted his life to promoting equal rights for African-Americans.

The weekend clash highlighted the sharp contrast between how many African-Americans view Trump's inauguration compared with Barack Obama's eight years ago.

It also demonstrated that no one is immune from scorn from a president-elect with lit-

tle tolerance for public criticism. Trump has found political success even while attacking widely lauded figures before and after the campaign - a prisoner of war, parents of a slain U.S. soldier, a beauty queen and now a civil rights icon.

Lewis, a 16-term congressman, said Friday that he would not attend Trump's swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol next Friday. It would mark the first time he had skipped an inauguration since joining Congress three decades ago.



Lewis

"You know, I believe in forgiveness. I believe in trying to work with people. It will be hard. It's going to be very difficult. I don't see this president-elect as a legitimate president," Lewis said

in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" set to air Sunday.

"I think the Russians participated in helping this man get elected. And they helped destroy the candidacy of Hillary Clinton," Lewis said.

Lewis' spokeswoman, Brenda Jones, declined to re-

spond to Trump and said the lawmaker's "opinion speaks for itself."

"We as a nation do need to know whether a foreign government influenced our election," she said.

U.S. intelligence agencies have said that Russia, in a campaign ordered by President Vladimir Putin, meddled in the election to help Trump win. After spending weeks challenging that assessment, Trump finally accepted that the Russians were behind the election-year hacking of Democrats. But he also emphasized that "there was absolutely no effect on the outcome of the election includ-

ing the fact that there was no tampering whatsoever with voting machines."

Protesters across US decry anti-immigrant stance

WASHINGTON (AP)—Protesters gathered Saturday to support immigrant rights at rallies around the U.S., denouncing President-elect Donald Trump for his anti-immigrant rhetoric and his pledges to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexican border and to crack down on Muslims entering the country.

"We are not going to allow Donald Trump to bury the Statue of Liberty," Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat, told a standing-room-only crowd at historic African-American church in downtown Washington during one of dozens of rallies around the nation.

In Chicago, more than 1,000 people poured into a teachers' union hall to support immigrant rights and implore one another to fight for those rights against what they fear will be a hostile Trump administration.

Ron Taylor, pastor of a Chicago-area Disciples for Christ Church and executive director of the United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations, told the audience there, "Regardless of what happens in the coming days we know that good will conquer evil and we want to say to each and every one of you, you are not alone."

In Los Angeles, several hundred people rallied at a downtown Mexican-American cultural center and plaza. Some carried signs saying "Here to Stay" and chanted "Si se puede," Spanish for "Yes, we can."

The protests mark the latest chapter in a movement that has evolved since 2006, when more than a million people took to the streets to protest a Republican-backed immigration bill that would have made it a crime to be in the country illegally.

Saturday's events in Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Jose, California, and elsewhere took place as thousands participated in a "We Shall Not Be Moved" march and rally in Washington ahead of Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

The line to enter Metropolitan AME Church in Washington stretched nearly a city block. People attending included immigrants who lack permission to be in the country and their relatives and supporters. Also present were elected officials, clergy and representatives of labor and women's groups.

US midsection grapples with pesky ice storm; more on way

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Parts of the central U.S. grappled Saturday with a second day of road-glazing ice and braced for more of the treacherous, below-freezing weather expected to close out the holiday weekend.

The storm created travel headaches for many people who opted to go out despite pleas by authorities to stay put. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said Interstate 40 was closed in two places in western portions of the state because of wrecks, including the jackknifing of several semitrailers in icy conditions in Caddo County. A 45-year-old Oklahoma City man died early Saturday after his semitrailer struck two others on icy I-40 in Custer County and then was hit by a car. The patrol is investigating the wreck.

Saturday's storm followed another a day earlier that dumped freezing rain from Oklahoma to southern Illinois. The National Weather Service said swaths of Kansas and Missouri - both broadly still under ice storm warnings Saturday - could see a third wave of sleet and freezing drizzle Sunday. Complicating matters were temperatures forecast in many cases to remain near or below freezing.

Ice buildups of one-quarter to slightly less than a half inch were expected late Saturday and Sunday morning from southeastern Kansas to central Missouri. Lesser ice accumulations were forecast for Saturday around St. Louis.

State troopers in Missouri and other affected states were pressing motorists to limit travel to only necessary outings, allowing road crews the space to treat the slippery mess. Many appeared to heed that advice, drawing kudos from the Missouri Department of Transportation, which



Houseboats sit on the rising waters of Oroville Lake, near Oroville, Calif. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017.

scrambled around the clock to mitigate the glazed roads.

"We are keeping up with the changing conditions, but it is a continual battle," said Becky Allmeroth, a state maintenance engineer for the department. She called ice "the most difficult storm to fight."

"The precipitation is coming in waves, and we have to apply more salt," she said.

A slick roadway was suspected in a Missouri wreck Friday that killed a 33-year-old woman whose sport utility vehicle slid on an icy freeway overpass south of St. Louis and struck several trees. Later Friday, icy conditions were blamed for a pileup involv-

ing more than 20 vehicles in Wichita, Kansas, but no serious injuries were reported.

The storm's onset prompted the NFL to move the AFC divisional playoff game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and host team the Kansas Chiefs to Sunday evening to allow more time to treat roads and parking lots at Arrowhead Stadium. The game was scheduled to kick off at noon but now will start at 7:20 p.m.

Many residents had prepared for the storms by stocking up on bread, milk and other necessities and by buying flashlights and generators to have on hand in case power gets knocked out.

Northern California, Nevada brace for more storms

The back-to-back storms that hit California and Nevada since last week are part of an "atmospheric river" weather system that draws precipitation from the Pacific Ocean as far west as Hawaii. That kind of system, also known as the "pineapple express," poses catastrophic risks for areas hit by the heaviest rain.

What is an atmospheric river?



Source: NOAA, Scientific America, AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Asia

China again rejects Trump's suggestion to negotiate Taiwan

BEIJING (AP)—China's foreign ministry on Sunday again rejected President-elect Donald Trump's suggestion that he might use American policy on Taiwan as a bargaining chip between the two sides.

Spokesman Lu Kang said Sunday that the "one China" policy is "non-negotiable." Since recognizing Beijing in 1979, Washington has maintained only unofficial ties with Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing considers its territory - a status quo that Trump has repeatedly threatened to upend since winning the November election.

"The government of the People's Republic of China is the only legitimate government representing China," Lu said in a statement. "That is the fact acknowledged by the international community and no one can change."

Trump told The Wall Street Journal in an interview published Friday that "everything is under negotiation, including 'one China.'"

The interview is the latest indication Trump that he will shake up the U.S.-China relationship, particularly on Taiwan, which China considers a core national interest.

China was already angered by Trump's Dec. 2 phone call with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, the first time an American president or president-elect has publicly spoken to Taiwan's leader in nearly four decades. Beijing considers any reference to a separate Taiwanese head of state to be a grave insult.

Trump then said in a television interview that he didn't feel "bound by a one-China policy unless we make a deal with China having to do with other things, including trade."

After attacking China repeatedly during his campaign,

Trump has continued to disparage China on his Twitter account over its military build-up in disputed areas of the South China Sea, allegedly manipulating its currency to put American companies at a disadvantage, and not doing enough to curb North Korea's nuclear program. He has also announced that a new White House trade council will be led by economist Peter Navarro, a sharp critic of Chinese economic policy who wrote a book titled "Death By China."

Trump told the Journal that he would not label China a currency manipulator as soon as

he takes office, though he repeated his contention that China is manipulating the yuan.

So far, Beijing has reiterated its refusal to negotiate on Taiwan and to push for positive cooperation between the two sides, though state-run media have run several strongly worded editorials attacking Trump.

Chinese political observers on Sunday said they expected Beijing's response to change once Trump is inaugurated next week.

"Trump has not taken office yet, so he is an ordinary person now," said Shen Dingli, a professor of international

relations at Fudan University. "Therefore, there's no need for China to take his remarks seriously or further respond to what he said."

Tang Yonghong, a professor at Xiamen University, said that China needed to convince Trump that "if he wants to make money from the Chinese mainland, he must be a friend of China instead of being an enemy."

"I think Trump is handling international relations, including Sino-U.S. relations, with a businessman's logic," Tang said. "He wants to see how China will respond to such provocation."

Duterte orders troops to blast militants and their hostages

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he has ordered his troops to bomb extremists who flee with their captives in a bid to stop a wave of kidnappings at sea, calling the loss of civilian lives in such an attack "collateral damage."

Duterte has previously stated that he had told his Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts their forces can blast away as they pursue militants who abduct sailors in waters where the three countries converge and bring their kidnap victims to the southern Philippines. He said in a speech late Saturday that he had given the same orders to Filipino forces.

He said he instructed the navy and the coast guard that "if there are kidnappers and they're trying to escape, bomb them all."

"They say 'hostages.' Sorry, collateral damage," he said in a speech to business people in Davao, his southern hometown.

He said such an approach would enable the government to get even with the ransom-seeking militants. "You can't gain mileage for your wrongdoing, I will really have you blasted," he said.

His advice to potential victims? "So, really, don't allow yourselves to be kidnapped."

Duterte's remarks reflect the alarm and desperation of the Philippines, along with Malaysia and Indonesia, in halting a series of ransom kidnappings primarily by Abu Sayyaf militants and their allies along a busy waterway for regional trade.

On Saturday, ransom-seeking Abu Sayyaf gunmen freed a South Korean

captain and his Filipino crewman who were abducted three months ago from their cargo ship.

The gunmen handed skipper Park Chul-hong and Glenn Alindajao over to Moro National Liberation Front rebels, who turned them over to Philippine officials in southern Jolo town in predominantly Muslim Sulu province.

The Moro rebels, who signed a 1996 peace deal with the government, have helped negotiate the release of several hostages of the smaller but more violent Abu Sayyaf, which is blacklisted by the U.S. as a terrorist organization for kidnappings, beheadings and bombings.

Duterte's adviser dealing with insurgents, Jesus Dureza, said he was not aware of any ransom being paid in exchange for the freedom of the sailors. At least 27 hostages, many of them foreign crewmen, remain in the hands of different Abu Sayyaf factions, he said.

There have been persistent speculations, however, that most of the freed hostages have been ransomed off.

Without a known foreign source of funds, the Abu Sayyaf has survived mostly on ransom kidnappings, extortion and other acts of banditry.

A confidential Philippine government threat assessment report seen by The Associated Press last year said the militants pocketed at least 353 million pesos (\$7.3 million) from ransom kidnappings in the first six months of 2016.

The militants have mostly targeted slow-moving tugboats in the busy sea bordering the southern Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Gadget mountain rising in Asia threatens health, environment



AP
In this Friday, Jan. 13, 2017, photo, a worker arranges used electronic equipment at a repair shop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The waste from discarded electronic gadgets and electrical appliances has reached severe levels in East Asia, posing a growing threat to health and the environment unless safe disposal becomes the norm.

China was the biggest culprit with its electronic waste more than doubling, according to a new study by the United Nations University. But nearly every country in the region had massive increases between 2010 and 2015, including those least equipped to deal with the growing mountain of discarded smartphones, computers, TVs, air conditioners and other goods.

On average, electronic waste in the 12 countries in the study had increased by nearly two thirds in the five years, totaling 12.3 million tons in 2015 alone.

Rising incomes in Asia, burgeoning populations of young adults, rapid obsolescence of products due to technological innovation and changes in

fashion, on top of illegal global trade in waste, are among factors driving the increases.

"Consumers in Asia now replace their gadgets more frequently. In addition, many products are designed for low cost production, but not necessarily repair, refurbishment or easy recycling," said the study. It urges governments to enact specific laws for management of electronic waste or rigorously enforce existing legislation.

Only South Korea, Taiwan and Japan have long established recycling systems based on laws introduced in the 1990s. Open dumping of lead- and mercury-laden components, open burning of plastics to release encased copper and unsafe backyard operations to extract precious metals are the norm in most countries including Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia, which also lack laws governing the treatment of electronic and electrical waste.

The study said open burning and unsafe recycling is associated with a slew of health

problems for workers and communities near recycling operations. They include infertility, childhood development problems, impaired lung function, liver and kidney damage, inheritable genetic damage and mental health problems.

Backyard recyclers are after gold, silver, palladium and copper, mainly from printed circuit boards, but the crude acid bath extraction process releases toxic fumes and is also inefficient, recovering only a portion of the valuable material.

Asia as a whole is the biggest market for electronics and appliances, accounting for nearly half of global sales by volume, and produces the most waste.

Guiyu, a heavily-polluted rural town in China that specializes in dismantling consumer electronics, some of it exported from rich countries, has become synonymous with the costs of a throwaway high-tech world.

China has cleaned up Guiyu and other centers like it but the

Basel Action Network, which brought Guiyu to international attention, said most of the dangerous practices continue in Guiyu albeit concentrated within a new industrial park on its outskirts.

Ruediger Kuehr, one of the study's authors, said the amount of waste being generated is higher than governments estimate, partly because of their narrower definitions, and should be a wake-up call to policymakers and consumers.

"We are all benefiting from the luxury of these electrical and electronic products to a certain extent, it makes our lives easier, sometimes more complicated," he said. "However if we want to continue like this we must be reusing the resources contained in electronic and electrical equipment."

A smartphone, for example, uses more than half the elements in the periodic table, some of which are very rare, and in the longer-run will be exhausted without recycling, said Kuehr.

World

Iraq makes swift territorial gains against IS in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Iraqi forces have won a string of swift territorial gains in Mosul in the fight against the Islamic State group after months of slow progress, with a senior officer on Saturday laying claim to a cluster of buildings inside Mosul University and another edge of a bridge.

Iraqi forces now control the eastern sides of three of the city's five bridges that span the Tigris River connecting Mosul's east to west. Warplanes from the U.S.-led coalition bombed the city's bridges late last year in an effort to isolate IS fighters in the city's east by disrupting resupply routes.

At Mosul University, senior commanders said Iraqi forces had secured more than half of the campus Saturday amid stiff resistance, but clashes were ongoing into the afternoon. Iraqi forces entered the university from the southeast Friday morning and by nightfall had secured a handful of buildings, Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil and Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi said on a tour of the university Saturday.

"We watched all the IS fighters gather in that building, so we blew it up," said special forces Sgt. Maj. Haytham Ghani pointing to one of the blackened technical college buildings where charred desks could be seen inside. "You can still see some of their corpses."

Thick clouds of black smoke rose from the middle of the sprawling complex Saturday



AP
Iraqi special forces fight against Islamic State militants to regain control of Mosul University, in the eastern side of Mosul, Iraq, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017.

has quickened. IS defenses in the city's east appear to be thinning and unlike in the surrounding neighborhoods, Iraqi officers said they believe Mosul University and recently retaken government buildings are largely empty of civilians - allowing them to use air cover more liberally.

Iraqi soldiers at Mosul University said while they were still coming under heavy small arms fire, IS resistance was significantly less than they faced during the first weeks of the Mosul operation.

"We were targeted with only four car bombs where before (IS) would send 20 in one day," special forces Lt. Zain al-Abdeen said. "And they aren't armored like before, they're just using civilian cars."

Medics operating a small field hospital in eastern Mosul said civilian casualties have dropped significantly over the past three days as Iraqi forces moved into government complexes like the university rather than dense civilian neighborhoods.

morning. By afternoon, clashes had intensified with volleys of sniper and mortar fire targeting the advancing Iraqi forces. Convoys of Iraqi Humvees snaked through the campus, pausing for artillery and airstrikes to clear snipers perched within classrooms, dormitories and behind the trees that line the campus streets.

IS fighters overran Mosul in the summer of 2014, announcing from there their self-styled "caliphate" after taking a large

swath of Iraq and Syria in a lightning surge. Access to the city's central bank, a large taxable civilian population and nearby oilfields quickly made IS the world's wealthiest terrorist group.

Yet even as a punishing campaign of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes has pushed the militants underground, IS leaders continued to use Mosul as a key logistical hub for planning meetings. If recaptured by the Iraqi forces, IS territory in Iraq

that once stretched across a third of the country would be reduced to small pockets in the north and west that troops will likely be able to mop up relatively quickly.

The massive operation to retake Mosul from IS was launched in October. Since then Iraqi forces have slowly clawed back more than a third of the city. IS maintains tight control of the city's western half where Iraqi forces will likely encounter another

wave of heavy IS resistance. The west of the city is home to some of Mosul's densest neighborhoods and an estimated 700,000 civilians.

As Iraqi forces have closed in on the Tigris that roughly divides Mosul into eastern and western halves, their pace

WORLD BRIEFS

IOM: Only 4 survivors from migrant shipwreck off Libya

ROME (AP)—A migrant ship carrying around 100 people capsized in the frigid waters off Libya on Saturday and only four survivors had been rescued after hours of searching, aid groups said. Eight bodies were recovered but poor conditions were hampering the search taking place 30 miles (50 kilometers) off Libya's coast, Italy's ANSA news agency reported. Flavio di Giacomo, Rome spokesman for the International Organization of Migration, said four people had been rescued out of an estimated 110 aboard. He said more details would become available after the four are brought to shore. The vast majority of migrant ships set off from Libya's lawless coasts, where smugglers operate with impunity charging desperate migrants hundreds of dollars apiece to make the dangerous Mediterranean crossing. Last year saw a record high number—181,000 people—heading to Italy by sea.

Pope meets Palestinian leader; Vatican calls Jerusalem holy

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican stressed the sacred nature of Jerusalem on Saturday as the Palestinian leader warned that prospects for peace could suffer if the incoming Trump administration goes ahead with plans to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The developments came as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met with Pope Francis and inaugurated the Palestinian embassy to the Holy See. Abbas said he had only heard through news reports of the proposal by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to move the embassy to Jerusalem. The Palestinians strongly oppose the embassy move, saying it would kill any hopes for negotiating an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement and rile the region by undercutting Muslim and Christian claims to the holy city. "We hope that this news is not true, because it is not encouraging and will disrupt and hinder the peace process," he said. He urged Trump to open a dialogue with both Israelis and Palestinians.

In long-shot Mideast peace bid, France sees nothing to lose

PARIS (AP)—It sounds far-fetched at best: holding a Mideast peace conference without Israelis, Palestinians or the incoming U.S. government.

But the French organizers say that's the whole point. They want Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to see that most of the world wants a two-state solution and is fed up with decades of conflict.

With chances for a Mideast peace deal lower than in years - perhaps a generation - French President Francois Hollande figures there's nothing to lose.

French diplomats fear that Trump will unleash new tensions in the region by condoning settlements on land claimed by the Palestinians and potentially moving the U.S. Embassy to contested Jerusalem.

So more than 70 foreign ministers and other top envoys are gathering Sunday in Paris to urge the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Netanyahu says the confer-

ence is "rigged" against Israel and declined an invitation to a special meeting afterward. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was initially expected, but his visit to Paris has been postponed.

Even the organizers know it's symbolic; no one expects a breakthrough. It's aimed at presenting Trump with a collective international push for peace once he takes office Friday.

For Obama's outgoing government, Sunday's meeting marks the bitter, disappointing end of eight years of failed Israeli-Palestinian diplomacy. Days before leaving office, Secretary of State John Kerry will headline the Paris event - yet he's participating only to ensure that America's interest in a two-state solution is preserved.

According to a draft statement obtained by The Associated Press on Friday, the conference will urge Israel and the Palestinians "to officially restate their commitment to the two-state solution." It also will

affirm that the international community "will not recognize" changes to Israel's pre-1967 lines without agreement by both sides.

Hollande's government has been trying for years to revive peace-making, pointing to diplomatic successes like the 2015 Paris climate agreement, its improved relations with Israel over the past decade and hard line against Israeli rivals Iran and Syria.

But with Netanyahu snubbing the conference and Trump's administration "reserved" about it, according to a French diplomat, Sunday's gathering looks increasingly like an effort to isolate Israel, not entice it to the negotiating table.

Pro-Israel demonstrators plan a protest Sunday in Paris.

Hollande too is a lame duck, leaving office in May - and his government has made no plans to follow up Sunday's conference with enforcement measures or outreach to Trump's team.

The final declaration may

warn Trump against moving the embassy, a move that could be seen as recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital after decades of insisting that the city's status must be determined by direct negotiations.

The sides haven't negotiated even indirectly since a failed U.S. peace effort in 2014. Palestinian attacks on civilians and incitement to violence have heightened tensions, as has expanded Israeli settlement building.

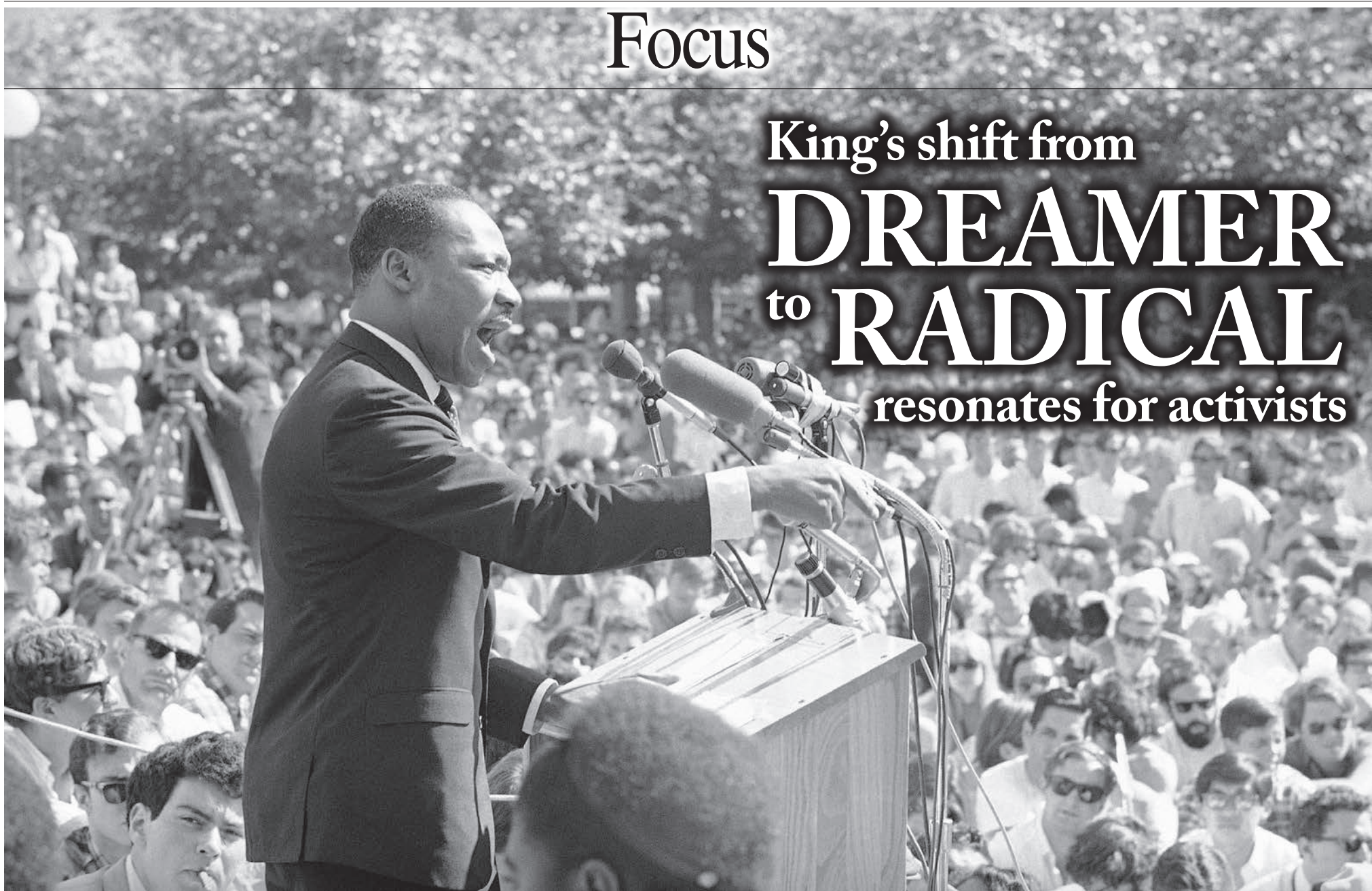
Israel has settled some 600,000 of its citizens in the West Bank and east Jerusalem - claimed by the Palestinians for a future independent state. Israel captured both areas in the 1967 Mideast war. Netanyahu has ruled out a return to Israel's 1967 lines, and many members of his coalition oppose Palestinian independence.

Palestinian attacks on civilians and incitement to violence.

The Palestinians have welcomed the French initiative.

Focus

King's shift from DREAMER to RADICAL resonates for activists



In this May 17, 1967 file photo, Dr. Martin Luther King speaks at the University of California administration building in Berkeley, Calif. Fifty years ago, Martin Luther King Jr. asked Americans, "Where do we go from here?" His warning of chaos or community squarely confronted racism, and marked a shift from his emphasis on nonviolence to a demand for full economic and political equality. Younger generations of black activists say they prefer the pointed, more forceful King to the Nobel Peace Prize-winning pacifist who preached love over hate.

AP

By **ERRIN HAINES WHACK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—For Abdul Aliy-Muhammad, the Martin Luther King Jr. he learned about as a child was a man of love, peace and racial harmony, a gifted orator.

It wasn't until Aliy-Muhammad became an activist that he came to know, and appreciate, the King who decried the Vietnam War as "unjust" and made a firm, insistent case for economic justice for black Americans.

"There is a Martin Luther King that is important to the resistance movement that we don't hear about," said the 33-year-old co-founder of the Black and Brown Workers Collective in Philadelphia. "We always hear about love and forgiveness. ... There was also a King who was radical."

Younger black activists say they prefer the pointed, more forceful King to the Nobel Prize-winning pacifist who preached love over hate as he led nonviolent marches across the segregated South. They like the fact that the urgency in King's demand for equality in the years just before his assassination in 1968 is in keeping with the tenacious nature of today's Black Lives Matter rallying cry.

"Then as now, it was about

promises not translating into substantive transformation," said Princeton University professor Imani Perry. "The questions young people are asking and the way they're challenging the status quo are important. If we don't have that kind of vision, we end the possibility for change before we even have the conversation. In that sense, they really are carrying the torch."

Fifty years ago this month, King retreated to the Caribbean with his wife, Coretta, and a few friends to write his final book, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?" In the book, published in June 1967, King argued for racial equality for black Americans through the wholesale embrace of social and economic reform.

During the book's promotional tour, King spoke out against the Vietnam War and criticized U.S. leaders for allowing slum conditions to persist in the cities. "Everyone is worrying about the long hot summer with its threat of riots. We had a long cold winter when little was done about the conditions that create riots," King said in June 1967.

Today's young activists say King's harsher words resonate just as much as his methods of peaceful protest.

"We do King a disservice when we try to tell a flat story of turning the other cheek,"

said 31-year-old Charlene Carruthers, national director of the Black Youth Project 100 in Chicago. "It was never simply that."

As Carruthers sees it, "agitation" was the core of King's work. "Their agitation shows up differently than how our agitation shows up today. However, I think King's work and the work we do are part of the larger tradition of black radical resistance."

In an August 1967 speech to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, King pointed out disparities in unemployment, housing, education and infant mortality. He called for black Americans—then barely a century out of bondage—to "assert our dignity and worth."

"The job of arousing manhood within a people that have been taught for so many centuries that they are nobody is not easy," King told the audience. "Psychological freedom, a firm sense of self-esteem, is the most powerful weapon against the long night of physical slavery."

King fought to end public segregation and fought for the right to vote. But he also advocated for a living wage and worked to close the employment gap for blacks and spoke out against discrimination in policing—to which rioting was a common response. King reacted to the Feb. 29, 1968,

The struggle for MLK Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a federal holiday honoring the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. - the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement to end racial segregation. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is close to Jan. 15, King's birthday.

The long road to honor King's memory as a holiday



1968 King assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4; four days later, U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., introduces a bill to create the holiday, but it never comes to a vote.

1971 Congress receives more than 6 million signatures in support of the holiday, but takes no action.

1979 Conyers' bill defeated in the House by five votes.

1981 Benefit concert, rally and march in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 15, King's birthday; Stevie Wonder's "Happy Birthday" song becomes an anthem for the pro-holiday movement.

1983 Bill creating the holiday passes Congress despite opposition, especially from Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.; President Ronald Reagan, who opposes the bill, signs it into law, knowing Congress would override his veto.

1986 Holiday goes into effect; only 27 states and the District of Columbia honor it; southern states start passing laws combining MLK Day with those honoring Confederate generals.

1987 Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham rescinds the holiday, triggering tourism and business boycotts against the state; NFL subsequently votes to move 1993 Super Bowl from Tempe, Ariz., to Pasadena, Calif.

1992 Arizona votes to accept the holiday; NFL returns Super Bowl to Tempe in 1996.

1994 Congress designates MLK Day a national day of service.

1999 New Hampshire adopts MLK Day as a paid holiday, replacing its optional Civil Rights Day.

2000 Virginia splits Lee-Jackson Day, honoring confederate generals, from MLK Day; Utah renames its Human Rights Day as MLK Day, becoming the last state to recognize the day by King's name; South Carolina becomes the last state to make the day a paid holiday.

Source: Congressional Black Caucus, About.com, calendar-12.com
Graphic: Staff, TNS

release of the report by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, also known as the Kerner commission, by noting that the solutions suggested "have been made before almost to the last detail and have been ignored almost to the last detail."

It is a familiar climate for some working in the Black Lives Matter movement, who see their efforts in cities like Ferguson, Missouri, Chicago, Baltimore and Cleveland on a continuum that reaches back to King.

They identify with the fact that King was only 26 when he was thrust into a leadership role in the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott. When he died at 39 in 1968, before he could launch his Poor People's Campaign, King was still far younger than civil rights establishment figures such as A. Philip Randolph and Adam Clayton Powell.

Remembering King as a community organizer places his movement alongside contemporary activism, said Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter.

"He was really focused on poor black people," Cullors, 33, said. "Let's remember the King who was invested in changing the country that he loved so much, who called out elected officials who continued to endanger black people."

Health & Fitness

The good, bad and unknown about marijuana's health effects

NEW YORK (AP)—It can almost certainly ease chronic pain and might help some people sleep, but it may also raise the risk of getting schizophrenia and trigger heart attacks.

Those are among the conclusions about marijuana reached by a federal advisory panel in a report released Thursday.

The experts also called for a national effort to learn more about marijuana and its chemical cousins, including similarly acting compounds called cannabinoids.

The current lack of scientific information “poses a public health risk,” said the report, from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Patients, health care professionals and policy makers need more evidence to make sound decisions, it said.

For marijuana users or those considering it, “there’s very little to guide them” on amounts and health risks, said Dr. Marie McCormick of the Harvard School of Public Health, who headed the committee.

Several factors have limited research. While the federal government has approved some medicines containing ingredients found in marijuana,

it still classifies marijuana as illegal and imposes restrictions on research. So scientists have to jump through bureaucratic hoops that some find daunting, the report said.

A federal focus on paying for studies of potential harms has also hampered research into possible health benefits, the report said. The range of marijuana products available for study has also been restricted, although the government is expanding the number of approved suppliers.

Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for a variety of medical uses, and eight of those states plus the district have also legalized it for recreational use.

The report lists nearly 100 conclusions about marijuana and its similarly acting chemical cousins, drawing on studies published since 1999. Committee members cautioned that most conclusions are based on statistical links between use and health, rather than direct demonstrations of cause and effect.

The review found strong evidence that marijuana can treat chronic pain in adults and that



In this Sept. 15, 2015 file photo, marijuana grows at a medical marijuana cultivation center in Albion, Ill. In a report released Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017 by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, the federal advisory panel took a comprehensive look at what’s known about the benefits and harms of marijuana and is calling for a national effort to learn more about the drug.

similar compounds ease nausea from chemotherapy, with varying degrees of evidence for treating muscle stiffness and spasms in multiple sclerosis.

Limited evidence says marijuana or the other compounds can boost appetite in people with HIV or AIDS, and ease symptoms of post-traumatic

stress disorder, the report concluded. But it said there’s not enough research to say whether they’re effective for treating cancers, irritable bowel syndrome, epilepsy, or certain symptoms of Parkinson’s disease, or helping people beat addictions.

There may be more evidence soon: a study in Colorado is investigating the use of marijuana to treat PTSD in veterans.

Turning to potential harms, the committee concluded:

■ Strong evidence links marijuana use to the risk of

developing schizophrenia and other causes of psychosis, with the highest risk among the most frequent users.

■ Some work suggests a small increased risk for developing depressive disorders, but there’s no evidence either way on whether it affects the course or symptoms of such disorders, or the risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder.

■ There’s a strong indication that using marijuana before driving increases the risk of a traffic accident, but no clear link to workplace accidents or injuries, or death from

a marijuana overdose.

■ There’s limited evidence for the idea that it hurts school achievement, raises unemployment rates or harms social functioning.

■ For pregnant women who smoke pot, there’s a strong indication of reduced birth-weight but only weak evidence of any effect on pregnancy complications for the mother, or an infant’s need for admission to intensive care. There’s not enough evidence to show whether it affects the child later, like sudden infant death syndrome or substance use.

■ Some evidence suggests there’s no link to lung cancer in marijuana smokers. But there’s no evidence, or insufficient evidence, to support or rebut any link to developing cancers of the prostate, cervix, bladder, or esophagus.

■ Substantial evidence links pot smoking to worse respiratory symptoms and more frequent episodes of chronic bronchitis.

■ There’s a weak suggestion that smoking marijuana can trigger a heart attack, especially for people at high risk of heart disease. But there’s no evidence either way on whether chronic use affects a person’s risk of a heart attack.

■ Some evidence suggests a link between using marijuana and developing a dependence on or abuse of other substances, including alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs.

Testing wearable sensors as ‘check engine’ light for health

WASHINGTON (AP)—A next step for smart watches and fitness trackers? Wearable gadgets gave a Stanford University professor an early warning that he was getting sick before he ever felt any symptoms of Lyme disease.

Geneticist Michael Snyder never had Lyme’s characteristic bulls-eye rash. But a smart watch and other sensors charted changes in Snyder’s heart rate and oxygen levels during a family vacation. Eventually a fever struck that led to his diagnosis.

Say “wearables,” and step-counting fitness trackers spring to mind. It’s not clear if they really make a difference in users’ health. Now Snyder’s team at Stanford is starting to find out, tracking the everyday lives of several dozen volunteers wearing devices that monitor more than mere activity.

He envisions one day having wearables that act as a sort of “check engine” light indicating it’s time to see the doctor.

“One way to look at this is,

these are the equivalent of oral thermometers but you’re measuring yourself all the time,” said Snyder, senior author of a report released Thursday on the project.

Among the earliest hints: Changes in people’s day-to-day physiology may flag when certain ailments are brewing, from colds to Lyme to Type 2 diabetes, researchers reported in the journal PLOS Biology.

Interest in wearable sensors is growing along with efforts to personalize medicine, as scientists learn how to tailor treatments and preventive care to people’s genes, environment and lifestyle. The sensors are expected to be a part of the National Institutes of Health’s huge “precision medicine” study, planned to begin later this year.

But a first step is learning what’s normal for different people under different conditions.

The Stanford team is collecting reams of data—as many as 250,000 daily measurements—from volunteers

who wear up to eight activity monitors or other sensors of varying sizes that measure heart rate, blood oxygen, skin temperature, sleep, calories expended, exercise and even exposure to radiation. That’s paired with occasional laboratory tests to measure blood chemistry and some genetic information.

An initial finding: Blood oxygen levels decrease with rising altitudes during plane flights, in turn triggering fatigue. But toward the end of long flights, oxygen begins rising again, possibly as bodies adapt, the researchers reported.

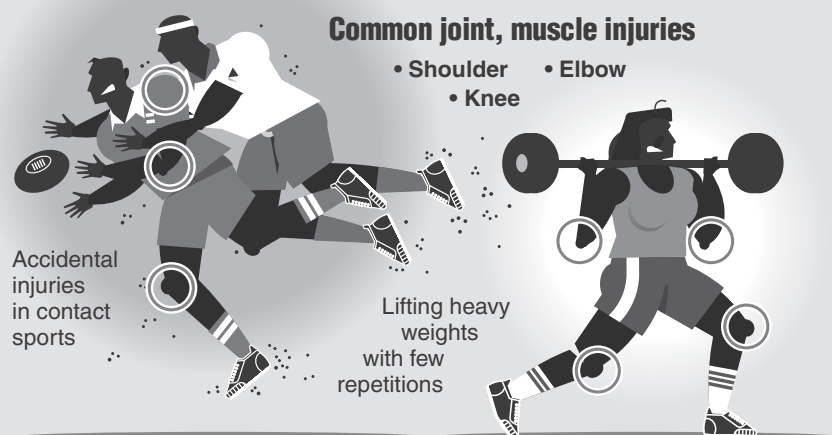
It was that phenomenon that alerted Snyder, the longest-tested participant, “that something wasn’t quite right” on one of his frequent long flights.

Landing in Norway for a family vacation, Snyder noticed his oxygen levels didn’t return to normal like they always had before. Plus his heart rate was much higher than normal, which sometimes signals infection.

Personal Trainer

Warning to ‘weekend warriors’

Trying to pack a week’s worth of sports and exercise into Saturday and Sunday sets up many “weekend warriors” for injury.



Does not improve fitness

None of these increase significantly if two-day workouts are followed by five sedentary days

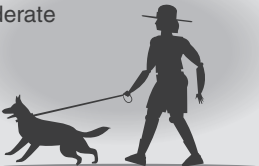
- Strength
- Flexibility
- Endurance



Escaping the weekend syndrome

Get at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity every day

- Playing with children
- Working in garden
- Walking dog
- Taking stairs instead of riding elevator



Source: Dr. Kevin Plancher, WebMD; American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

The big top comes down: Ringling Bros. circus is closing

ELLENTON, Fla. (AP)—After 146 years, the curtain is coming down on “The Greatest Show on Earth.” The owner of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus told The Associated Press that the show will close forever in May.

The iconic American spectacle was felled by a variety of factors, company executives say. Declining attendance combined with high operating costs, along with changing public tastes and prolonged battles with animal rights groups all contributed to its demise.

“There isn’t any one thing,” said Kenneth Feld, chairman and CEO of Feld Entertainment. “This has been a very difficult decision for me and for the entire family.”

The company broke the news to circus employees Saturday night after shows in Orlando and Miami.

Ringling Bros. has two touring circuses this season and will perform 30 shows between now and May. Major stops include Atlanta, Washington, Philadelphia, Boston and Brooklyn. The final shows will be in Providence, Rhode Island, on May 7 and in Uniondale, New York, at the Nassau County Coliseum on May 21.

The circus, with its exotic animals, flashy costumes and death-defying acrobats, has been a staple of entertainment in the United States since the mid-1800s. Phineas Taylor Barnum made a traveling spectacle of animals and human oddities popular, while the five Ringling brothers performed juggling acts and skits from their home base in Wisconsin. Eventually, they merged and the modern circus was born. The sprawling troupes traveled around America by train, wowing audiences with the sheer scale of entertainment and exotic animals.

By midcentury, the circus was routine, wholesome family entertainment. But as the 20th century went on, kids became less and less enthralled. Movies, television, video games and the internet captured young minds. The circus didn’t have savvy product merchandising tie-ins or Saturday morning cartoons to shore up its image.

“The competitor in many ways is time,” said Feld, adding that transporting the show by rail and other circus quirks—such as providing a traveling school for performers’ children—are throw-



backs to another era. “It’s a different model that we can’t see how it works in today’s world to justify and maintain an affordable ticket price. So you’ve got all these things working against it.”

The Feld family bought the Ringling circus in 1967. The show was just under 3 hours then. Today, the show is 2 hours and 7 minutes, with the longest segment—a tiger act—clocking in at 12 minutes.

“Try getting a 3- or 4-year-old today to sit for 12 minutes,” he said.

Feld and his daughter Juliette Feld, who is the company’s chief operating officer, acknowledged another reality that led to the closing, and it was the one thing that initially drew millions to the show: the animals. Ringling has been targeted by activists who say forcing animals to perform is cruel and unnecessary.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a longtime opponent of the circus, wasted no time in claiming victory.

“After 36 years of PETA protests, which have awoken the world to the plight of animals in captivity, PETA heralds the end of what has been the saddest show on earth for wild animals, and asks all other animal circuses to follow suit, as this is a sign of changing times,” Ingrid Newkirk, president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, wrote in a statement.

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, acknowledged the move was “bittersweet” for the Felds but said: “I applaud their decision to move away from an institution grounded on inherently

inhumane wild animal acts.”

In May of 2016, after a long and costly legal battle, the company removed the elephants from the shows and sent the animals to live on a conservation farm in Central Florida. The animals had been the symbol of the circus since Barnum brought an Asian elephant named Jumbo to America in 1882. In 2014, Feld Entertainment won \$25.2 million in settlements from groups including the Humane Society of the United States, ending a 14-year fight over allegations that circus employees mistreated elephants.

By the time the elephants were removed, public opinion had shifted somewhat. Los Angeles prohibited the use of bull-hooks by elephant trainers and handlers, as did Oakland, California. The city of Asheville, North Carolina nixed wild or exotic animals from performing in the municipally owned, 7,600-seat U.S. Cellular Center.

Attendance has been dropping for 10 years, said Juliette Feld, but when the elephants left, there was a “dramatic drop” in ticket sales. Paradoxically, while many said they didn’t want big animals to perform in circuses, many others refused to attend a circus without them.

“We know now that one of the major reasons people came to Ringling Bros. was getting to see elephants,” she said. “We stand by that decision. We know it was the right decision. This was what audiences wanted to see and it definitely played a major role.”

The Felds say their existing animals—lions, tigers, camels, donkeys, alpacas, kanga-

roos and llamas—will go to suitable homes. Juliette Feld says the company will continue operating the Center for Elephant Conservation.

Some 500 people perform and work on both touring shows. A handful will be

placed in positions with the company’s other, profitable shows—it owns Monster Jam, Disney on Ice and Marvel Live, among other things—but most will be out of a job. Juliette Feld said the company will help employees with job

placement and resumes. In some cases where a circus employee lives on the tour rail car (the circus travels by train), the company will also help with housing relocation.

Kenneth Feld became visibly emotional while discussing the decision with a reporter. He said over the next four months, fans will be able to say goodbye at the remaining shows.

In recent years, Ringling Bros. tried to remain relevant, hiring its first African American ringmaster, then its first female ringmaster, and also launching an interactive app. It added elements from its other, popular shows, such as motorbike daredevils and ice skaters. But it seemingly was no match for Pokemon Go and a generation of kids who desire familiar brands and YouTube celebrities.

“We tried all these different things to see what would work, and supported it with a lot of funding as well, and we weren’t successful in finding the solution,” said Kenneth Feld.

In Celebration of His New Life **RODNEY STEVEN TAKAI CAMACHO**

Born to life on December 01, 1968
Called to Eternal life on January 11, 2017

In his new life he now joins his:

Parents: †Leonardo Deleon Guerrero Camacho
†Rita Takai Camacho

Father In-Law: †Jose Acosta Camacho

Siblings: †Lawrence Takai Camacho
†Elena Irene Takai Camacho
†Joseph Takai Camacho

In Laws: †Julian M & †Maria R. Camacho

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Carmen C. Camacho

Mother In-Law: Juana Muna Camacho

Daughter: Ronie Cherise C. Camacho

Brothers/Sisters and In-Law:

Maria C. Arizala
Joanne T. Camacho
John T. Camacho
William T. & Valerie S. Camacho
Rose G. Camacho

Brothers In-Law/Sisters In-Law:

Jose M. & Anna T. Camacho
Jesus M. & Grace Camacho
Antonio M. & Trini Camacho
Mariano M. & Rosa A. Camacho
Francisco M. & Marsha B. Camacho
Sebastian M. & Theresita S. Camacho
Fernando M. & Rowena R. Camacho
Augustin M. & Janel A. Camacho
Vincent M. & Danielle June Koch
Remedios M. Camacho & Family
Consolacion C. & Rainaldo Aguon
Maria Elizabeth & Cerbert Eamilao
Ana M. Camacho & Ramon Guzman
Magdalena C. Ricardo Babauta

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church from Monday to Saturday and 6:00am and 8:30am on Sunday.

On Thursday, January 19, 2017 his remains will be escorted at 7:30am from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Santa Soledad Church. Responso service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment Service will follow at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'ns Maase. Thank you for your prayers
Ginen I Familia

Jennifer Holliday backs out of Trump inauguration gig

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Broadway star Jennifer Holliday has backed out as a performer at next week's presidential inaugural following protests from her gay and black fans, further dimming the event's already low celebrity wattage.

Holliday, best known for her Tony-winning role in Broadway's "Dreamgirls," said in an interview Saturday she hadn't considered that singing at a Thursday concert by Washington's Lincoln Memorial would be judged a statement of support for President-elect Donald Trump.

She decided to withdraw at 3 a.m. after reading commentary about how her participation was being seen. She apologized for a lack of judgment.

"It just really hit home for me," she said. "The gay community has been a big part of my life and my career. I feel there really wouldn't be a Jennifer Holliday or a 'Dreamgirls' in the 21st Century without them. I needed to at least hear them out and learn why it would be such a great disappointment for them."

Several prominent entertainers have declined to per-



AP
In this Oct. 7, 2016 file photo, actress and singer Jennifer Holliday poses for a photo during an interview in New York.

form at Trump inaugural festivities. Country star Toby Keith, the rock band 3 Doors Down and actor Jon Voight are in the lineup Thursday. Jackie Evancho will sing the national anthem at the inauguration Friday.

Holliday said it was painful to read racial epithets, insults such as "Uncle Tom" and people wishing that she were dead "just for singing a song." She had been scheduled to sing

the Stephen Foster song "Hard Times Come Again No More."

"I had no idea it would be interpreted as a political statement," she said. "That's my fault for not paying attention to what the climate is like in the country right now."

She cited an article by Kevin Fallon in The Daily Beast, which explained why Holliday's role as Effie in "Dreamgirls" made her an

icon in the gay and lesbian community during the initial AIDS outbreak in the 1980s. In that context, learning Holliday was performing at the inaugural "feels like a betrayal," Fallon wrote. "It is heartbreaking."

Holliday said she wasn't concerned about a social media backlash from Trump supporters, or the president-elect himself. It couldn't be worse

than what she had already read from her supporters, she said.

President Barack Obama's inaugurations attracted top names like Beyonce, Bruce Springsteen, U2, Alicia Keys, Jennifer Hudson and others, in sharp contrast to those Trump has gathered. But Trump has insisted that's how he wants it, saying the swearing-in festivities should be about the people, not the A-list.

Star-studded inaugural events for Obama at the Lincoln Memorial in 2009, and for Bill Clinton in 1993, were televised at the time by HBO, but the network's chairman said Saturday that won't be the case this year.

HBO had been contacted shortly after Obama's election to discuss its interest in the inaugural show, and top talent had already committed to the

project, said Richard Plepler, the network's chairman and CEO, on Saturday. By contrast, he said the Trump transition team contacted him two weeks ago and wasn't saying anything about performers.

"I didn't know what the show would be," Plepler said. "In order to do one of these things you must have the time and planning and coordination for the kind of production that would make it a good show."

He stressed that politics had nothing to do with HBO's decision.

Trump's team has made the concert available to air at no cost but no network has publicly come forth to say it would. CNN said Saturday it would cover the event, but it wasn't clear how much will be shown on the air.

Johnny Depp sues ex-managers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Johnny Depp sued his former business managers on Friday alleging they mismanaged his earnings throughout a lucrative period of his career, although the company says the actor's spending is to blame.

Depp's lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court against The Management Group seeks more than \$25 million, alleging its owners failed to properly pay his taxes, made unauthorized loans and overpaid for security and other services.

Michael J. Kump, an attorney for The Management Group, calls Depp's lawsuit a "fabrication" and wrote in a statement that Depp never alleged any wrongdoing. The company "did everything possible to protect Depp from his irresponsible and profligate spending," Kump wrote.

Depp's lawsuit accuses the company and its owners, attorneys Joel and Robert Mandel, of receiving \$28 million in payments for their services over the roughly 16 years they managed his finances. The company "actively concealed the true state of Mr. Depp's finances while driving him deeper and deeper into financial distress," the lawsuit states.

Depp hired the Mandels in 1999 and their compensation was not subject to a written contract, his lawsuit states. It states they received 5 percent of his income on hit films such as the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise and other major releases, including "Alice in Wonderland" and the 2005

film "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

It alleges the company failed to file Depp's tax returns on time, costing him nearly \$5.7 million in penalties. The lawsuit also alleges the company overpaid for several services, including forgetting to terminate the lease on a home where

Depp's mother lived temporarily, and spending \$8 million on security between 2012 and 2015 alone.

Depp learned of the problems after hiring a new management company in March 2016, the complaint states.

Kump wrote that Depp owes The Management Group \$4.2 million from a \$5 million loan they provided the actor. "His tactics and lawsuit will fail, and he will be forced to pay back the loan as promised," Kump wrote.

The lawsuit came on the same day Depp finalized his divorce from actress Amber Heard. Their divorce judgment calls for the actor to pay his ex-wife \$7 million in installments—which she has earmarked for two charities—while allowing him to keep numerous properties and vehicles.

Depp isn't the only blockbuster star to take his former managers to court alleging mismanagement. Nicolas Cage sued his former business manager seeking \$20 million for alleged mismanagement in 2009 and the manager in a countersuit cited the actor's spending for his financial troubles. The case was resolved before trial.



Depp

No plans to digitize Fisher in future 'Star Wars' films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The makers of "Star Wars" have put a quick end to rumors that while Carrie Fisher has died, her Princess Leia may live on.

Making a rare foray into the sprawling world of "Star Wars" speculation, Lucasfilm said Friday night that there are no plans to digitally recreate Fisher to appear in future episodes of the movie saga.

"There is a rumor circulating that we would like to address," a company statement said. "We want to assure our fans that Lucasfilm has no plans to digitally

recreate Carrie Fisher's performance as Princess or General Leia Organa."

Fisher, who reprised her role as Leia in 2015's "Star Wars: Episode VII—The Force Awakens," had finished shooting "Star Wars: Episode VIII," due out next December, when she died Dec. 27 of cardiac arrest at age 60. Her mother Debbie Reynolds died the next day.

But Fisher had also been slated to appear in "Episode IX," scheduled for release in 2019. That film is still being scripted, and the writers are deciding how to handle her

death.

Adding to the speculation was the brief appearance of a digitized 1977-era Fisher in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," which was released last month.

That film also had a much larger role for a digitized version of the late Peter Cushing as Grand Moff Tarkin.

The renderings of Fisher and Cushing, who died in 1994, were embraced by many fans but hated by just as many, who thought the characters looked cartoonish, distracting, or even spooky.

John Knoll, the effects guru who came up with the idea of the revitalized characters, told Yahoo Movies

on Friday that Fisher "loved" her appearance in "Rogue One," which consists of one short-but-significant shot, and a single word of dialogue.

"She was very much in favor of it," Knoll said.

But Lucasfilm insists "Episode VIII" will be Fisher's last.

"Carrie Fisher was, is, and always will be a part of the Lucasfilm family," the company's statement said. "She was our princess, our general, and more importantly, our friend. We are still hurting from her loss. We cherish her memory and legacy as Princess Leia, and will always strive to honor everything she gave to 'Star Wars.'"



Fisher

Leonardo DiCaprio foundation backing Utah national monument

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio's foundation is chipping in to support a new national monument in southern Utah that's been a flashpoint in the debate over public land use in the West, officials said Friday.

His environmental group is one of several donating to create the \$1.5 million Bears Ears Community Engagement Fund, which is aimed at supporting local efforts to preserve natural resources and protect the park's trove of archaeological sites from looting and other threats.

The money could be spent

on things like locating and putting up signs at ancient sites tucked amid picturesque cliffs, plateaus and towering rock formations in the Bears Ears monument about 300 miles south of Salt Lake City, said Michael Scott with the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

The fund will also support efforts from the five American Indian tribes who will get a say in how the land is managed, a first for a national monument.

A coalition of American In-

dian tribes pushed the Obama administration to create the monument that protects the land from new mining and oil and gas development.

DiCaprio sent out messages on his Facebook and Instagram accounts in May 2016 urging people to sign petitions in support. A representative for

DiCaprio didn't immediately have comment on the donation Friday.

President Barack Obama designated the 1.35-million-

acre monument in the Four Corners region in December despite objections from Utah Republican leaders and rural residents who said it will add another layer of unnecessary federal control.

It's a common argument in the battle over use of the American West's vast open spaces, and one that opponents of the monument hope has traction during Donald Trump's presidency. Opponents agree the area is worth preserving but argue the federal designation will go too far and bar people from camping, hiking or gathering wood.



DiCaprio

Judge finalizes divorce of Johnny Depp, Amber Heard

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge ended Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's marriage on Friday after months of bickering over the final terms of

their breakup.

The judgment keeps in place many of the key terms the actors agreed to in August, when they announced a settle-

ment in their divorce a day before a restraining order hearing that would have focused on Heard's allegations that Depp was physically abusive toward her.

Their agreement called for Depp to pay Heard \$7 million, which she has pledged to a pair of charities. Attorneys for the actors have squabbled over whether Depp can make the payments directly to the charities and other details of the final judgment.

"We are all pleased to put this unpleasant chapter in Mr. Depp and his family's lives behind them," his attorney Laura Wasser wrote in a statement. "Having his request for entry of the dissolution judgment granted today made it a particularly lucky Friday the 13th."

The couple has no children together, but Heard will keep their dogs, Pistol and Boo, and a horse named Arrow.

The judgment splits up several other assets, including cars and property. Neither actor will receive spousal



AP
In this Nov. 3, 2011 file photo, U.S. actors Johnny Depp, left, and Amber Heard arrive for the European premiere of their film, "The Rum Diary," in London.

"My client would be very happy to move on with her life," O'Donnell said.

The judgment ends a marriage that lasted less than two years. The pair met on the set of the 2011 film "The Rum Diary" and married in February 2015, but separated in May 2016.

Depp denied he physically abused Heard. Police officers who responded to their apartment in May after a fight between the couple said they found no evidence of a crime.

"Our relationship was intensely passionate and at times volatile, but always bound by love," the actors said in a joint statement released after Heard dismissed her restraining order petition. "Neither party has made false accusations for financial gain. There was never any intent of physical or emotional harm."

support, and a confidentiality provision calls for them to refrain from discussing their relationship in interviews or on social media.

The actors signed the judgment in December, which led Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carl H. Moor to state at the outset of a hearing Fri-

day, "I'm scratching my head a little bit about why we're all here."

He received assurances from lawyers that there was no dispute over the terms of the judgment, and Heard's lawyer Pierce O'Donnell said the actress wanted the case to end immediately.

Divorce file: Prince, 2nd wife lived luxurious lifestyle

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Prince's unsealed divorce file from his second marriage shows the couple lived a luxurious lifestyle that included spending \$50,000 per party after major awards ceremonies, a newspaper reported Friday.

Records from the late "Purple Rain" megastar's divorce from Manuela Testolini were unsealed Friday by a judge's order. The Minneapolis Star Tribune went to court to unseal the files. Testolini objected, saying the disclosure would put her and her family at risk. Her attorney did not immediately respond to requests from The Associated Press for com-

ment Friday.

The files show Testolini said the couple threw lavish parties after major awards shows, like the Oscars and the Grammys with Testolini hiring a \$5,000-a-day stylist to do her hair and makeup, the Star Tribune (<http://strib.mn/2jFWzGZ>) reported. The records also show the couple would spend \$50,000 on food, drinks and decor for each party.

"We had accounts at boutiques including Gucci, Versace and Valentino. We had accounts at Saks. There was never any restriction on (Prince's) or my spending," she said.

The records also show that

Prince locked Testolini out of their home in Chanhassen, which was not at his Paisley Park recording complex, in May 2005.

Prince and Testolini met when she was a consultant for his charity, Love 4 One Another, the documents showed, and married on Christmas 2001. The couple's divorce was granted in 2007.

Prince, 57, died of an accidental painkiller overdose in April. He previously was married to backup dancer Mayte Garcia.

Two years after their divorce, Testolini claimed Prince had not returned several

personal items, including copies of videos he made based on two songs he had written for her, the records show. He also had not returned jewelry, including a Tiffany gold and diamond earring set, as well as photographs, memorabilia and scrapbooks. The items were valued at \$185,000.

Prince was representing himself at that time and did not respond to the court.

The documents do not give financial details of the final divorce settlement. Testolini did receive a house in Toronto worth about \$6 million and a Lexus automobile, the newspaper reported.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Brie Larson and Jennifer Hudson to announce Oscar nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar winners Brie Larson and Jennifer Hudson will help announce this year's Academy Award nominees. The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences on Friday revealed the actresses will be among those who announce nominees in 24 categories on Jan. 24. Also presenting will be Oscar nominees Jason Reitman and Ken Watanabe and Oscar-winning cinematographer Emmanuel "Chivo" Lubezki. In a departure from previous years, the academy is ditching a live audience for the nomination announcements and will livestream them on its website, Oscars.org. Some of the presentation will also air on "Good Morning America." Jimmy Kimmel is hosting this year's ceremony, which will air on Feb. 26 on ABC.

'Sherlock' season finale leaks online 1 day before premiere

LONDON (AP)—There's a little less mystery about the season finale of the television series "Sherlock" after a Russian version of the episode leaked online. The show's official Twitter account urged fans to refrain from sharing details of the episode "The Final Problem" before it airs Sunday. Images that appeared to be from it were being shared Saturday on social media. The show

stars Benedict Cumberbatch in a modern take on Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as his sidekick Watson. The leak was announced two days after a preview screening of the "Sherlock" fourth season finale at the British Film Institute, where audience members were asked not to give away spoilers. Producer Sue Vertue appealed to fans, tweeting "Please don't share it. You've done so well keeping it spoiler free. Nearly there."

Kidman says comments about Trump support weren't endorsement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nicole Kidman says her comments that Americans should support President-elect Donald Trump were merely a statement of her belief in democracy, not an endorsement of the incoming president. The Oscar-winning actress's earlier remarks sparked both criticism and praise online after they were aired by the BBC earlier this week. Kidman tells Access Hollywood that her comments were misconstrued. She says, "I was trying to stress that I believe in democracy and the American Constitution, and it was that simple." When an interviewer pressed her for more details, Kidman threw up her hands and said she was done commenting on the topic. Kidman was born in Hawaii to Australian parents and holds dual citizenship in Australia and the U.S.

Photo of mom in body bag infuriates grieving daughter

DEAR ABBY: I am a 58-year-old female. My mother passed away in my home almost exactly a year ago. I took care of her for the last three years of her life. After she died, my brother and his wife came to my home at 1:30 p.m. The funeral home didn't arrive to pick her up until 8:30 that night.

Later that evening, after my mom was gone and my brother and his wife left, my daughter came to me and announced that my sister-in-law had secretly taken pictures of Mom in the body bag on the stretcher as she was being wheeled out of my home. She didn't know that my daughter had seen her.

I am furious, horrified and hurt beyond description! My mother always liked to look nice and made a special effort to look good for a picture. The coroner had told me to go into another room when they were taking her because he said I wouldn't want that as my last memory of her.

I have never said anything to my sister-in-law, but I can't seem to let this go. It's killing me. Am I overreacting? Please, I need your advice.

MISSING MOM

DEAR MISSING MOM: I am truly sorry for your loss, but you may be overreacting. Not everyone grieves in the

same way, and similarly, not everyone feels the same way about taking pictures of deceased loved ones. During Victorian times the practice was quite common.

I don't know why your sister-in-law felt compelled to take the photos, but it could have been a gesture of love and respect. If you want to know why she did it, you should calmly ask her and let her explain.

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing my boyfriend for about a year. He's three years younger than I am, which hasn't been an issue for us. However, recently, because of work scheduling, I have been waiting at his house until he comes home and spending more time with his father.

I am extremely ashamed that I have developed feelings for his dad. His dad has a girlfriend. I am aware this is inappropriate, but I am not sure how to handle this.

ANONYMOUS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ANONYMOUS: The way to "handle it" is to accept that your boyfriend's father has a girlfriend and is probably not looking for anything extracurricular. And further, if anything should develop, recognize that it would not only devastate your boyfriend, but would also probably

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

destroy his relationship with his father.

DEAR READERS: In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday we remember today: "To retaliate in kind would do nothing but intensify the existence of hate in the universe. Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough, and morality enough, to cut off the chain of hate."

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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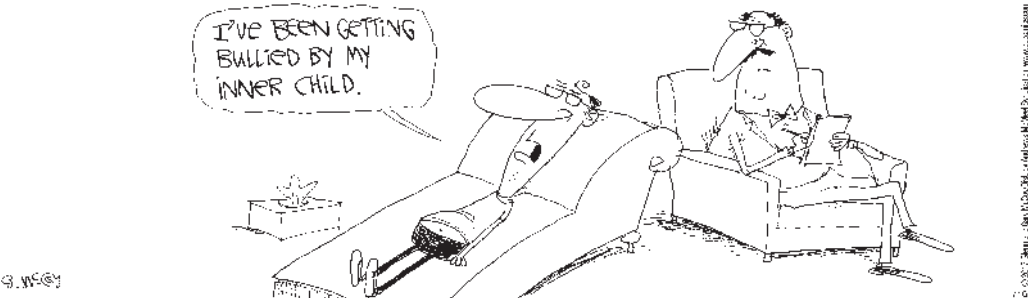
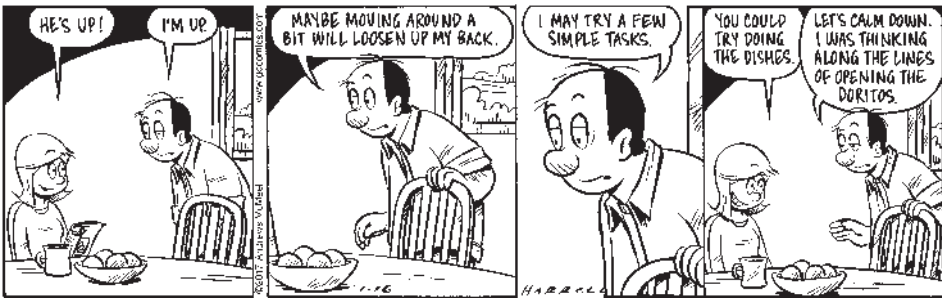


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Marry
4 Grimace
9 "My word!"
12 Actor McKellen
13 "If I — rich man ..."
14 Like sashimi
15 Elvis Presley's home
17 High card
18 Unwell
19 Fabrics
21 Capital of Rwanda
24 Prefix with pad or port
25 Leb. neighbor
26 Snake's sound
28 Appointments
31 Low-fat
33 Bit of advice
35 Christmas
36 Kathmandu's land
38 Rail

40 Costa — Sol
41 Greek vowels
43 Swiss metropolis
45 Seriously loyal
47 Tram load
48 Yalie
49 Bit by bit
54 Painter Vermeer
55 Macho type
56 Tic-tac-toe win
57 Hearty quaff
58 Reuben cheese

59 Brock of baseball
60 Peruke
61 Corn spike
62 Genetic stuff
64 Big waves
65 String quartet player
66 Man-mouse link
67 RenFest waitress
68 Served soup
69 Thanks apiece

11 Rams fans?
16 Spy org.
20 Skin-care brand
21 Pottery oven
22 "Got it"
23 Gossip source
27 Bro or sis
29 Hgt.
30 Actress Ward
32 Peace-keeping org.
34 Asian temples
37 Chortles
39 Encore presentations
42 Scatter about
44 PBS funder
45 "— Vu" (Warwick hit)
46 Airline to Tel Aviv
50 Paris pal
51 Texter's chuckle
52 Privy
53 Thee

Solution time: 28 mins.

Friday's answer 1 - 16

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kate Moss, 43; Richard T. Jones, 45; Debbie Allen, 67; John Carpenter, 69.

Happy Birthday: Make a little noise. Negotiate on your own behalf. Settlements, investments and legal matters will turn in your favor as long as you don't make unreasonable demands. This is a year to strive for perfection, to use your imagination and to settle old debts. Keep life simple and practice moderation, and success will not elude you. Personal gains are within reach. Your numbers are 2, 10, 21, 28, 33, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will desire change. Don't let your impulses take over where your income is concerned. If dealing with matters that concern travel, education or important relationships, look for ways to improve your situation, knowledge or location. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think big and follow your dreams. You can learn as you go and impress someone who can influence your position. Offer your services and skills to anyone who requires assistance, and good fortune will head in your direction. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take control before it's too late. Don't give in to temptation. Stay focused on what you can accomplish and the changes you make will add to your security and stabilize your life. Have the courage to say "no." **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Home, family and important relationships will take a favorable turn if you offer love, compassion and understanding. Your input and

insight will be appreciated and put you in a good position to make personal gains. Romance is in the stars. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Generosity can lead to debt. Deal with emotional spending and try to keep up with the demands that someone puts on you. Show your strength of character and only offer what you can. For anything above or beyond, simply offer suggestions. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't limit what you can do. Speak up and share your feelings. It's how you handle others that will help you get ahead personally and professionally. Launch a creative pursuit and you will gain popularity. Romance is highlighted. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Change can be good if you have put enough thought and effort into the process. Keep in mind that if what you decide to do affects others negatively, you will face opposition. Ask for approval before you begin. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ask and you shall receive. This is a day of giving and receiving. Listen, assess and make suggestions, and you will find common ground with someone who is trying to reach a similar goal. Home improvements will lead to entertainment and creativity. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Avoid getting involved in an emotional situation that can cause frustration at home. Focus on making personal gains in order to bring about positive personal changes. Doing something with your loved ones will bring you the greatest satisfaction and rewards. **

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Move forward with your plans. Finish what you start and make a point to stay within your budget. Don't let an unexpected change throw you off track. Set your own goals and refuse to take a detour regardless of what others do. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider expanding your interests. Whether it has to do with a business venture, physical challenge or finding a variety of ways to use your skills, the outcome will be beneficial. Money or gifts are heading your way. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Step up and pitch in and you will feel good about your contribution. You don't need to offer cash. Your services and suggestions will be sufficient. Honesty will determine how good your relationships are with others. Personal improvements will add to your appeal. ***

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, original and sensitive. You are a dreamer and a loyalist.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4 2 3 9 7 8 6 5 1

7 6 1 4 5 2 3 8 9

9 5 8 3 6 1 7 4 2

2 1 4 6 8 3 9 7 5

8 7 5 1 2 9 4 3 6

6 3 9 5 4 7 2 1 8

5 8 6 2 3 4 1 9 7

3 9 2 7 1 5 8 6 4

1 4 7 8 9 6 5 2 3

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The successful candidate will work under the Executive Director of the Law Revision Commission/General Counsel for the Judicial Branch on Saipan. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

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Lewis scores 3 TDS, Pats advance to AFC title game



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The New England Patriots are headed back to a familiar spot: the AFC championship game.

Dion Lewis had a 13-yard touchdown reception, a 98-yard kickoff return for a score, and a late 1-yard touchdown to help the Patriots hold off the Houston Texans 34-16 on Saturday night and advance to an NFL-record sixth straight conference title game.

New England will host the winner of Sunday night's Pittsburgh-Kansas City matchup next Sunday for the right to play in the Super Bowl in Houston on Feb. 5.

"Whoever we play next week is going to be a great football team," Tom Brady said. "We're going to have to play better than we played tonight on offense."

Lewis became the fifth Patriots player to score three touchdowns in a playoff game. He's also the first player in the Super Bowl era to score on a rush, a catch and a kick return in a postseason game.

"I just approached it that I would be in there on every play. That's just the way I prepare," Lewis said. "So when it does happen, I won't be surprised. I'll always be ready."

Bill Belichick's Patriots (15-2) survived a gritty effort by the Texans' top-ranked defense, which intercepted Brady twice. Houston's special teams also forced a third turnover.

But the Texans (10-8) couldn't find enough traction



New England Patriots running back Dion Lewis (33) runs for a touchdown against the Houston Texans during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

on offense to take full advantage of the Patriots' mistakes, settling for field goals on both of Brady's picks.

New England led just 17-13 at the half, but pushed its lead to 24-13 early in the third quarter on a 19-yard touchdown pass from Brady to James White.

Houston's Brock Osweiler was intercepted three times after that, and the Texans managed only a field goal the rest of game.

It was the first break-out game of the season for

Lewis, who spent the first eight games of the season on injured reserve recovering from offseason surgery on his left knee.

Brady finished 18 of 38 for 287 yards and two touchdowns and was showered with chants of "MVP! MVP!" and "Brady! Brady!" late in the game. Julian Edelman was Brady's most dependable target, catching eight passes for 137 yards.

Osweiler was just 23 of 40 for 198 yards with the two turnovers.

"You need to capitalize on great opportunities against a football team like this," Osweiler said. "That's my fault, I'll clean that up."

When New England did have the ball in the first half, it gave Houston a steady diet of Lewis early with LeGarrette Blount coming off an illness that limited him during practice this week.

Without Blount to contend with, the Texans applied pressure to Brady.

A.J. Bouye intercepted a slightly overthrown ball by

Brady late in the first quarter on a pass that bounced out of the hands of receiver Michael Floyd. That led to a 27-yard field goal that cut New England's lead to 14-6.

On the ensuing kickoff, Lewis coughed up the ball on a hit from Akeem Dent. Eddie Pleasant fell on it at the Pa-

triot's 12, and two plays later, Brock Osweiler hit C.J. Fiedorowicz from 8 yards out to cut the deficit to 14-13.

Brady only threw two interceptions during the regular season. With his 28 touchdown passes, that was the lowest touchdown to interception ratio in NFL history.

Ryan leads Falcons to NFC title game, beating Seattle

ATLANTA (AP)—Matt Ryan hardly resembled a quarterback who can't win the big games.

No, this looked more like an MVP.

Returning to the postseason for the first time in four years, Ryan threw for 338 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Atlanta Falcons past the Seattle Seahawks 36-20 in the divisional round Saturday.

The Falcons are headed to the NFC championship game for only the fourth time in their 51-year history, and they're on quite a roll with Matty Ice at the helm.

He finished up to chants of "MVP! MVP! MVP!" from a raucous Georgia Dome crowd that gave the Seahawks a dose of what it's like for opposing teams at CenturyLink Field.

"It was pretty cool considering the circumstances, too, with the game in hand," Ryan said. "That's got to be as loud as it's ever been in here."

Ryan turned in another dynamic performance in the best

season of his career, shaking off a 1-4 record in his previous playoff appearances.

In an interesting twist, his lone postseason victory before Saturday was a 30-28 thriller over the Seahawks in the divisional round of the 2012 season.

Make it 2-0 over Seattle.

After the Seahawks zipped down the field for a touchdown on the opening possession, Atlanta's young defense largely shut down Russell Wilson & Co. the rest of the way.

Ryan and the high-scoring Falcons took it from there—getting a huge boost from a holding penalty that wiped out an 80-yard punt return by Devin Hester.

Ryan hooked up with Julio Jones on a 7-yard touchdown and Tevin Coleman for a 14-yard score before finishing off the Seahawks with a 3-yard toss to Mohamed Sanu in the corner of the end zone with just under 4 minutes remaining.

Atlanta (12-5) moves on to face either the Dallas Cowboys or the Green Bay Packers, who meet Sunday in the NFC's other divisional-round game.

After a 26-24 loss at Seattle during the regular season, the Falcons showed off all their offensive weapons against the Legion of Boom.

Eight players caught passes from Ryan, including running back Devonta Freeman on a 53-yard play that included a dazzling fake on replacement free safety Steven Terrell right in the middle of the field.

The Seahawks (11-6-1) sure missed Earl Thomas, out for the season with a broken leg.

"It's just really hard to think it's over," said coach Pete Carroll, whose team couldn't follow up a dominating win over Detroit in the opening round.

The game turned dramatically on a holding penalty in the second quarter that negated Hester's return to the Atlanta 7.

Instead of having first-and-

goal and a chance to extend a 10-7 lead, Seattle was backed up to its 7.

"Just a ridiculously large play in the game," Carroll said.

Especially with what came next. After Thomas Rawls was thrown for a 3-yard loss, Wilson dropped back to pass. One problem: rookie right guard Rees Odhiambo, taking over after Germain Ifedi was injured, stepped back onto Wilson's foot, sending the quarterback tumbling down in the end zone for a safety.

The Falcons did much better when backed up at their 1, closing out the first half by going 99 yards to make it 19-10. The drive was extended by Sanu's brilliant, one-handed catch for 22 yards with Jeremy Lane grabbing at his arm.

"They've got a lot of momentum," Carroll said of the Falcons. "This is what they looked like the last four weeks, and they carried that into this game against us."

Rodgers, Packers visit Cowboys for Prescott's playoff debut

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Aaron Rodgers has been unbeatable on a seven-game run that carried Green Bay to the divisional round.

So was Dallas rookie Dak Prescott for 11 straight in the regular season, a surge that ultimately benched 10-year starter Tony Romo and led to the No. 1 seed in the NFC for the quarterback's playoff debut Sunday against the Packers (11-6).

Rodgers plays at the home of the Cowboys (13-3) for the first time since winning his only Super Bowl following the 2010 season. And perhaps he'll flash back to his first playoff game a year before that while watching his counterpart try to lead Dallas to its first NFC championship game in more than 20 years.

"There's a lot of nerves in your first playoff game, you know there was for me," Rodgers said of a 51-45 wild-card loss to Arizona seven years ago. "I think I threw a pick on my first play. So yeah, you've got to find a way to settle in."

The two-time MVP has a good memory. He was right about that shootout loss, when he settled in and threw four touchdown passes after

his only interception.

And Prescott, who had the lowest interception rate for a rookie in NFL history in the regular season, knows it's about having a short memory now.

"We're not putting too much pressure on ourselves, on this team or this situation," Prescott said. "We're continuing to be the same guys we've been all year. When it's time to lock in, trust me we'll be ready."

Prescott and NFL rushing champion Ezekiel Elliott will try to become the first rookie QB-RB tandem to win a playoff game in the Super Bowl era.

Two had a chance after the 2012 season—Andrew Luck and Vick Ballard with Indianapolis and Robert Griffin III and current Dallas running back Alfred Morris with Washington.

"I don't view these guys as rookies," said 14th-year tight end Jason Witten, set for his sixth trip to the postseason.

"They've had a lot of at-bats at the plate. They've shown it over the course of 16 games who they are and how they play. I think they understand they just have to be themselves."

Booker has 39 points, Suns beat Spurs in Mexico City



MEXICO CITY (AP)—Devin Booker said he wanted to make the most of his visit to Mexico City. He did.

The 20-year-old Booker scored a career-high 39 points for the second game in a row and the Phoenix Suns beat the San Antonio Spurs 108-105 on Saturday in the fifth regular-season game in the country.

Booker, whose grandfather is from Mexico, was 12 of 22 from the field. He also had 39 points Thursday night in a loss to the Dallas Mavericks in the Suns' Mexican opener.

"I'm proud of the team overall, we bounce back after what happened the other night against Dallas, we play against a really good team like the Spurs and we came out with a close win," Booker said. "We are seeing beauty in the struggle. We played real well."

Booker has 13 30 point-games in his two-year NBA career.

"Devin Booker does not want to leave Mexico, he's averaging 39 points, so he wants to play Utah on Monday," Suns coach Earl Watson said. "I'm excited for Devin, he's only 20 years old and he won't be 21 until October, so we are very excited about his progression and everything that he's doing."

Kawhi Leonard had 38 points for the Spurs. They lost for the second time in their last three games.

"The Suns did a great job of being aggressive for 48 minutes they clearly played very competitively as it was evidence by their 26 or so second chance points they got and we exacerbated with 20 points off our turnovers," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Booker made two baskets to give the Suns the lead in the last minute, including a dunk off a break with Bledsoe that made it 106-103. Leonard made two free throws to get San Antonio within one. P.J. Tucker made two free throws for Phoenix, and the Spurs' Danny Green missed an open 3-pointer to seal the win for Phoenix.

Phoenix is the first team to play two regular-season games in the same season south of the border.

Clippers 113, Lakers 97

In Los Angeles, DeAndre Jordan scored 24 points on 12-of-13 shooting as the Los Angeles Clippers shot 52 percent to cruise past the Lakers on Saturday.

Jordan had 21 rebounds and Chris Paul added 20 points and 13 assists to help the Clippers improve to 6-0 in 2017. They



Phoenix Suns Devin Booker, second right, drives for a basket San Antonio Spurs Davis Bertans right, attempts to block him, in the first half of their regular-season NBA basketball game in Mexico City, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017.

help Utah beat Orlando, a victory tempered by the loss of Rodney Hood to what looked like a serious knee injury with 2:54 remaining.

On a fast break after Rudy Gobert blocked Nikola Vucevic's shot, Hood was hurt when his right knee buckled as he went up for a layup. Hood screamed in pain and clutched the knee immediately upon falling.

Gobert added 19 points and 19 rebounds for Utah. Hood had 14 points. Elfrid Payton had a career-high 28 points and added nine rebounds and nine assists for Orlando.

Wizards 109, 76ers 93

In Washington, John Wall had 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists while Bradley Beal added 20 points as Washington used a second-half spurt to beat Philadelphia.

The 76ers had won three straight for the first time in more than three years. They played without rookie star Joel Embiid. He sat out to rest after scoring 24 points Thursday night against Charlotte.

Jahlil Okafor, who hadn't played in the last three games, had a season-high 26 points for the 76ers.

are off to their best start since going 7-0 to begin 1974 when the franchise was located in Buffalo. Their streak is the longest active one in the NBA.

Jordan Clarkson scored 21 points for the Lakers.

Bulls 107, Pelicans 99

In Chicago, Jimmy Butler scored 28 points in his return from the flu while Dwyane Wade had 17 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter in Chicago's victory over New Or-

leans.

Butler returned after missing two games, and had 19 points in the first half. Taj Gibson added 15 points and 16 rebounds to help the Bulls snap a three-game losing streak.

Anthony Davis had 36 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks for New Orleans.

Jazz 114, Magic 107

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 23 points to

Mexican roots run deep with the Phoenix Suns

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Devin Booker is very proud of his Mexican heritage. But eating grasshopper tacos, a local delicacy? That's where the Phoenix Suns star apparently draws the line.

"No, I did not try them, but I guess I will have to before I leave," Booker said Wednesday after practice at Arena Ciudad de Mexico.

Mexican roots run deep in the Suns, whose coach Earl Watson and Booker both have Mexican-American mothers, making the games Thursday night against the Dallas Mavericks and Saturday against the San Antonio Spurs memorable occasions for both of them.

The 20-year-old Booker is the son of former NBA player Melvin Booker and Veronica Gutierrez, a Mexican-American who raised him while his father played overseas for a decade, including stops in Italy and Russia.

"I owe her everything, just growing up she raised me and my brother and sister and she

never frown, she was always positive," said Booker, who's averaging 19.2 points in his second season in the NBA. "She really cared for me, and never really cared about basketball, as long as I was happy. Having the support from your mother like that it's unbelievable."

Watson, a former player in his first full season as an NBA head coach, also has an African-American father and a Mexican-American mother. His mother, Estrella, will attend the game Thursday in her first trip to the nation's capital.

"For me personally it's big, my grandparents are from Guadalajara, and for my mom it's her first time in Mexico City and she'll be here cheering me on. Everything my grandparents did as far as coming to the United States, they came illegally, but eventually gained citizenship and for them to see me take these strides I think it's big for my family," said Watson to the AP after Wednesday's practice.

Because of his heritage, when he was playing, Watson was considered to be part of the Mexican national team although it never happened. He was also mentioned as a candidate to coach them when he retired. He regrets that those thoughts never materialized, but hopes to give something back to Mexico.

"I want to be a part of Mexico, I always try to represent Mexico and Mexican-Americans, I'm very outspoken about my heritage, my mom raised me Mexican-American. If I can give inspiration and come back to Mexico and give something back to the kids I'm always excited to do it," added Watson.

Mexico needs all the basketball inspiration it can get right now. For the first time since the 1999-00 season, there's no Mexican players in the league. Jorge Gutierrez was the last one and he was cut by the Brooklyn Nets right before the start of this season.

Gutierrez was the fourth

Mexican to play in the league. Horacio Llamas was the first in 1996-97, followed by Eduardo Najera and Gustavo Ayon.

"It's sad because we want to root for the Mexicans, we rooted for the Bucks when Jorge (Gutierrez) was there, we also followed and cheered for New Orleans when Gustavo was there," said Llamas, who played for the Suns for two seasons. "We want to have not only one but many Mexicans in the NBA, and we hope to achieve it soon."

Mexico has hosted more NBA preseason and regular-season games (22) than any country outside the U.S. or Canada. The Suns will play the Mavericks on Thursday and then against San Antonio on Saturday, marking the first time that the country has hosted two regular-season games in the same year. Overall, it will be the fourth regular season game played south of the border.

Japan and the United

Kingdom are the only other countries to host two regular-season games in the same season.

And although basketball is not nearly as popular as soccer and the NFL, there are more basketball courts than soccer fields in the country, so it appears that, like Llamas said, it's a matter of time before another player arrives to the NBA. While that happens, Mexican fans will have to cheer for players like Booker and head coaches like Watson, or even for assistants like Kaleb Canales, of the Dallas Mavericks.

"It's a dream come true for my family and myself to be able to come back and be here as part of the Dallas Mavericks as an assistant coach," Canales said to the AP. "I think the NBA is doing a great job with the NBA cares programs to get the game better globally and it will get better in Mexico, so it's a matter of time before we have players and coaches in the NBA".

Thomas stretches lead to 7 at the Sony Open

HONOLULU (AP)—Justin Thomas has turned the first full-field event of the year into a blowout.

With three birdies over the last five holes Saturday in the Sony Open—the last for another entry into the PGA Tour record book—Thomas played bogey-free and shot a 5-under 65 to stretch his lead to seven shots going into the final round at vulnerable Waialae Country Club.

No one has ever lost on the PGA Tour when leading by seven shots after 54 holes, which was brought to his attention.

“I’m more excited about the seven-shot lead than what you just said,” Thomas replied.

Staked to a five-shot lead, Thomas wanted to avoid giving anything back on another peaceful afternoon, and he only had one close call. He wound up with a seven-shot lead, the largest at the Sony



Justin Thomas drives off the fourth tee during the third round of the Sony Open golf tournament, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, in Honolulu.

Open since Jack Nicklaus led by six in 1974.

That’s not the record Thomas was thinking about when he reached the par-5 18th.

Each of the previous two rounds, he made eagle on his closing hole to get into the record book—a 59 on Thursday, and the PGA Tour’s 36-hole

scoring record Friday. No such luck Saturday after he clipped a palm frond with his second shot into the par-5 18th and came up well short in the fairway. Thomas pitched to just inside 15 feet below the cup and poured it in, just like he’s been doing all week.

That put him at 22-under 188, tying the 54-hole record that Steve Stricker set in 2010 at the John Deere Classic with caddie Jimmy Johnson on his bag. Johnson now caddies for Thomas, though this performance surely stands out because no one is close to him.

Zach Johnson kept pace with a 65 and is leading the B-flight at 15-under 201.

“I’ve got to play the golf course,” Johnson said. “That’s my only competitor tomorrow.”

Thomas repeated at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia last fall, and it picked up some serious steam last week at

the squad’s lack of experience cost them the match, but said despite the downfall his players are determined to train harder and keep playing.

“The CNMI Matua Team consisted mostly of players that never played before, including a good number of 10 to 12 year olds. Despite the loss, the kids are excited about the prospect of playing more football and I am happy to see that many have developed a new found passion for the sport of football,” Blanco said.

Besides the matua game, Guam and the Knights also played in the high school match and results will be reported this week.

CNMI/Knights side, which was formed just last year with players coming mostly from Mt. Carmel School

“It is very understandable to see a young team like them struggle in this game. But, there are a lot of promising talents. We saw kids who really have the ability to excel if given training and exposure,” Jacobs said.

“The best thing to do is to continue to play and nurture these talents. If possible, build a league, start to 3 to 4 teams and have them play at least once a week,” the Guam All-Stars offensive coordinator added.

Meanwhile, Knights coach John Blanco acknowledged

showed a lot of intensity. We executed our plays well,” said Jacobs, whose players are selected from the various villages/schools in Guam and from the teams seeing action in the island’s competitive youth league.

“These players have been playing in a while so definitely the experience worked to their advantage. Some of them are teammates in schools and in the Guam youth league so they are familiar with each other’s game,” the elder Jacobs added.

While the Guam All-Stars have been into the sport and organized leagues for years, the opposite can be said to the

GUAM

From Page 28

naliah Quichocho, and Laethian Gumaban earned the TDs for the Guam All-Stars.

“We don’t expect to have this big a winning margin. Actually, we don’t know what to expect from the game and from the CNMI Team because we’re not familiar with how the team plays and we only knew they are a new squad,” offensive coordinator Greg Jacobs said in an interview with Saipan Tribune after the game.

“With that, our mindset was to treat the match as if it is a championships game, so the boys really went all out and

WESTCO

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in twin digits with 14, drilling 5 of them in the fourth frame.

Gerald Rivera led CTSI/D&Q with his 15 points, including two of the team’s only three field goals in their fourth-period meltdown. Joe Santos had the other basket for CTSI/D&Q and that was also his lone field goal in the entire match.

Meanwhile, in the first game, Mike Cabanas won his shootout against Top Development, Inc. to power Coca-Cola/Subway to a 74-71 win.

Cabanas sizzled for 32 points and knocked in Coca-Cola/Subway’s last two baskets that gave the team a close win—its first after losing its debut to Mariana Resort last week in another Pool B pairing.

Raymond Velasco had 30 markers on a losing effort for TDI, which played in first match this season.

Cabanas highlighted his 30-point plus output with his 13 straight points in the second quarter, which wrapped up with Coca-Cola/Subway on top by only 2, 35-33. Velasco had 13 markers in the first

half to keep TDI afloat, while Cabanas finished the half with 18.

The lanky Coca-Cola/Subway forward then added 7 more in the third and drew help from Mark Ogasawara in the last two quarters to offset Velasco’s production and lift their team to its first win. Ogasawara tallied 11 points and all of them were made in the final frame, including 6 straight in the closing minutes of the fourth.

First Game

Coca-Cola/Subway 74—Cabanas 32, Ogasawara 11, Ilo

12, Francisco 10, Fejeran 2.

Top Development 71 — Velasco 30, J. Reyes 12, A. Reyes 14, Pollisco 4, Barros 4, Ibarra 3, Orenca 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-16, 35-33, 56-58, 74-71.

Second Game

Westco 67 — Tolentino 18, Illahi 18, Rejano 14, Cortez 7, Ejercito 4, Gutierrez 4, Orbita 2.

CTSI/D&Q 54 — Rivera 18, Rabago 10, Raho 6, Benavente 4, Dela Torre 4, Jinang 3, Santos 3, Echavez 2, Raas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-13, 28-23, 48-46, 67-54.

Factor 5, M. Sison 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-13, 37-35, 62-63, 80-72.

Second Game

Duenas Compound 97 — M. Duenas 31, E. Duenas 26, Inos 21, Schmidt 8, Santos 4, Eubanks 2, Mostales 2.

Patriots 86 — Aranda 23, Galarse 20, Deleon Guerrero 10, Barbo 8, Kintaro 6, Emerson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-21, 55-40, 75-63, 97-76.

DUENAS

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points in the final canto.

Matt had a game-high 31 markers, while Ernest and Inos chipped in 26 and 21 points, respectively. Jack Aranda had 23 points for the Patriots, who played without some of their key players, while Leo Galarse contributed 20

In the first match, Saipan Apparel drew solid games from big man Kelvin Fitial

and veteran Ed Diaz to thwart the young crew of GMI Market.

Fitial scored 23 points, while Diaz added 15. Both made key baskets in the fourth quarter to help Saipan Apparel maintain its distance against GMI Market. Fitial had 8 points in the payoff period, while Diaz added 6.

Meanwhile, the semis round will begin tomorrow with Saipan Apparel taking on Ace Hardware in the first

Kapalua when he overcame a late blunder with birdies on his last two holes for a three-shot victory in the SBS Tournament of Champions.

He doesn’t feel much different this week. He’s not sure he’s playing all that much differently, hard to measure given the extreme contrast in courses.

It was his 11th consecutive round in the 60s.

Along with tying Stricker’s record, Thomas set the 54-hole scoring record at the Sony Open by five shots. Next on the horizon is a shot at the 72-hole scoring record that Tommy Armour III set in 2003 with a 254 at the Texas Open.

Thomas would need a 65 to break that mark.

Right now, his only thought is more of what he called the “smart aggressive” play that enabled him to play bogey-free and extend his lead. He is thinking birdie while trying to avoid a miss that could lead to bogey.

And all he wants is another

lei around his neck and another trophy from paradise. Ernie Els in 2003 is the only other player to sweep Hawaii.

The course remained so vulnerable that Kevin Kisner nearly produced the second 59 of the week. Kisner made a 25-foot birdie putt on the eighth hole to reach 9 under for his round. Needing an eagle to

shoot 59, he drilled his tee shot on the fast fairways of Waialae, hit 8-iron to 9 feet and thought he had made it. The putt stayed to the right and burned the edge of the cup, and Kisner had to settle for a 60.

It was the lowest round of his career - but only the second-lowest round this week.

“Can’t be that upset,” Kisner said.

He went from making the cut on the number to a tie for sixth, though hardly in contention. When someone started to suggest that his 60 got him back into the mix, Kisner laughed and said, “Justin might need to get food poisoning.”

Even that might not be enough.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	26	13	.667	—
Boston	25	15	.625	1½
New York	18	22	.450	8½
Philadelphia	12	26	.316	13½
Brooklyn	8	31	.205	18

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	22	17	.564	—
Washington	20	19	.513	2
Charlotte	20	20	.500	2½
Orlando	17	25	.405	6½
Miami	11	30	.268	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	29	10	.744	—
Milwaukee	20	18	.526	8½
Indiana	20	19	.513	9
Chicago	20	21	.488	10
Detroit	18	24	.429	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	31	9	.775	—
Houston	31	11	.738	1
Memphis	25	17	.595	7
New Orleans	16	25	.390	15½
Dallas	12	27	.308	18½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	26	16	.619	—
Oklahoma City	24	17	.585	1½
Portland	18	24	.429	8
Denver	15	23	.395	9
Minnesota	14	26	.350	11

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	34	6	.850	—
L.A. Clippers	28	14	.667	7
Sacramento	16	23	.410	17½
L.A. Lakers	15	29	.341	21
Phoenix	13	27	.325	21

SONY OPEN SCORES

HONOLULU (AP)—Scores Thursday from the Sony Open, a PGA Tour event played at the par-70 course of Waialae Country Club.

Third Round

	Score
Justin Thomas	59-64-65=188
Zach Johnson	69-61-65=195
Justin Rose	66-64-66=196
Gary Woodland	64-64-68=196
Hudson Swafford	62-68-66=196
Jamie Lovemark	64-68-65=197
Russell Knox	64-67-66=197
Kevin Kisner	70-67-60=197
Jordan Spieth	65-67-66=198
Ollie Schniederjans	66-67-66=199
Brian Harman	66-67-66=199
Hideto Tanihara	67-65-67=199
Russell Henley	64-67-68=199
Tony Finau	64-67-68=199
Charles Howell III	65-66-68=199
Daniel Summerhays	66-68-66=200
Marc Leishman	68-66-66=200
Branden Grace	67-68-65=200
Jim Herman	66-67-67=200
Bill Haas	67-66-67=200
Brian Gay	69-64-67=200
Hideki Matsuyama	66-67-67=200
Henrik Norlander	67-65-68=200
Ryan Brehm	68-68-64=200
Billy Hurley III	64-68-68=200
Luke List	67-64-69=200
Webb Simpson	66-65-69=200
Tim Wilkinson	67-67-67=201
Shawn Stefani	64-70-67=201
Kevin Na	67-67-67=201
Jason Bohn	66-68-67=201
Ben Martin	66-68-67=201
Mackenzie Hughes	68-65-68=201
Cameron Smith	64-68-69=201

Kelly Kraft	69-67-65=201
Daniel Berger	65-67-69=201
Satoshi Kodaira	65-66-70=201
Michael Kim	67-67-68=202
Pat Perez	67-67-68=202
Seamus Power	69-66-67=202
Sean O'Hair	66-69-67=202
Robert Streb	68-67-67=202
James Hahn	68-68-66=202
Bryson DeChambeau	69-67-66=202
Andres Gonzales	68-68-66=202
Rory Sabbatini	63-69-70=202
Vaughn Taylor	68-69-65=202
Richy Werenski	65-69-69=203
Chez Reavie	67-67-69=203
Y.E. Yang	67-65-71=203
Scott Piercy	66-66-71=203
William McGirt	68-69-66=203
Kyle Stanley	71-66-66=203
David Lingmerth	67-67-70=204
Peter Malnati	69-66-69=204
Stewart Cink	66-70-68=204
Miguel Tabuena	67-65-72=204
Jared Sawada	68-66-71=205
Rod Pampling	68-66-71=205
Vijay Singh	65-70-70=205
Michael Thompson	65-68-72=205
Bryce Molder	72-61-72=205
Billy Horschel	69-67-69=205
Brian Stuard	66-71-68=205
Trey Mullinax	69-68-68=205
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano	67-68-71=206
Fabian Gomez	69-66-71=206
J.T. Poston	68-67-71=206
Jon Curran	65-71-70=206
Ken Duke	71-65-70=206
Zac Blair	70-66-70=206
John Huh	68-69-69=206
Scott Brown	70-67-69=206

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3rd Marianas Friendship Bowl

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CNMI/Knights and team official Charlie Peters acknowledge the crowd.

CNMI/Knights and Guam All-Star Team players shake hands after their game in the matua division of the 3rd Marianas Friendship Bowl held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

CNMI/Knights and Guam All-Star Team players line up at the 30-yard line.



A Guam All-Star Team player pulls down the shirt of the CNMI/Knights' Alvin Borja.



CNMI/Knights players huddle before the game resumes.



Two CNMI/Knights attempts to bring down Guam All-Star Team's quarterback.



A CNMI/Knights player tackles Guam All-Star Team player.



A CNMI/Knights player is sandwiched by twp Guam All-Star Team defenders.



**Lewis scores
3 TDS, Pats
advance to AFC
title game**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Sixers trio of
lottery picks
key to future
success**

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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Duenas Compound, Saipan Apparel advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Duenas Compound and Saipan Apparel completed the semis cast in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League after ousting their respective opponents last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Saipan Apparel moved into the semis following an 80-72 vic-



tory over GMI Market in the first game, while Duenas Compound took the last Final Four berth after crushing the San Antonio Patriots in the second match, 97-86. Saipan Apparel and Duenas Compound joined early qualifiers Ace Hardware and the Ol' Aces in the double-elimination semis round.

The second-seeded Duenas Compound set up the easy victory against the seventh-ranked Patriots after pulling away late in the second period, which started with the former ahead by only a deuce, 23-21. The Patriots were still very much in the game behind by only 3 points, 30-33, going into the final four minutes of the second quarter when Duenas Compound went on a 22-10 windup for a double-digit advantage at the break, 55-40.

Matt and Ernest Duenas and Perry Inos teamed up in the breakaway, as they combined for 19 points or for all but one of Duenas Compound's 10 field goals in that spurt. The trio kept their good shooting in the second half to protect the double-digit spread and Matt put the finishing touches in the victory by adding 10 more

See DUENAS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Duenas Compound's Matt Duenas, second left, throws up a shot in front of the Patriots' Jester Kintaro, left, in the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the MIBF outdoor caging last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Westco gets early lead in Pool B



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Westco's Kevin Rejano, left, takes off for a layup against CTSI/D&Q's Ariel Jinang during the third quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Westco gained the early lead in Pool B of the 2017 JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League after beating the debuting CTSI/D&Q, 67-54, last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Westco recorded its second victory in as many games after outgunning CTSI/D&Q in the final quarter. The final canto began with Westco clinging to a 48-46 lead, which went on to balloon to double digits as the division leader

knocked in nine field goals and registered its second most points (19) in a quarter.

CTSI/D&Q, on the other hand, ran out of ammunition after keeping pace with Westco in the first three cantos as the former was held to three baskets.

Danny Illahi and Raymond Tolentino had 18 points each to top-score for Westco, which won its debut against Konstrak Builders during the league's opening last week. Tolentino and Illahi combined for 10 points in the pivotal fourth quarter. Kevin Rejano also finished

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Guam All-Star Team capitalized on its experience to cruise past the CNMI/Knights, 44-0, in the matua division game in the 3rd Marianas Friendship Bowl held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

The visiting squad scored seven touchdowns and a couple of conversions to post the convincing win and made up for its close 12-6 triumph when the CNMI vs Guam game in the matua division (10 to 14 age group) was held in 2015. Evan Fernandez, Eugene Arriola, Noah Medler, Darren Cepeda, Travon Jacobs, An-

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Guam All-Star Team dominates



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI/Knights' Lawrence Laniyo tackles a Guam All-Star Team running back, while two more CNMI/Knights players get ready to provide help defense during the second quarter of their matua division game in the 3rd Marianas Friendship Bowl held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.